-FAKE-™

Meet Ryo and Dee, twa New York City caps with an attractian far actian—and each ather!

In this, the final valume of the series, events heat up on the streets...and between the sheets! The two cops are assigned ta serve as badyguards for a mab-bass's daughter...who is married to the man that killed Ryo's parents!

As tensions mount, will Rya and Dee finolly admit their lave and devatian ta each ather? Or will they farever sing the NYPD blues?

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SANAMI MATOH

-FAKE-

VOLUME SEVEN

BY SANAMI MATOH

TOKYOPOP
Los Angeles • Tokyo • London

-FAKE-

THE STORY SO FAR...

Meet Ryo and Dee, two New York City cops with an attraction for action—and each other! When soft-spoken Detective Randy "Ryo" Maclean was transferred to the NYPD's 27th precinct, he was partnered with Dee Laytner--a cocky, confident cop with attitude to spare. Right from the start, Dee had strong feelings for Ryo and was not reluctant to share them. Ryo's feelings toward Dee were a mystery to both men...though neither can deny their existence any longer.

The detectives' first case together involved a drug-related homicide. The victim was a narcotics smuggler, survived only by his young son Bikky. Though a smart-mouthed street punk and a petty criminal-in-the-making, Bikky helped Dee and Ryo foil the drug-smuggling ring that killed his father. Seeing that the tough-talking boy was actually a frightened, sad child with nowhere to go, kind-hearted Ryo took Bikky in much to Dee's chagrin.

In their second case, the detectives came to the rescue of a young pickpocket named Carol. Carol was stealing wallets to try to get enough money to bail her sick father out of jail before he died, but she ended up picking the pocket of a murderer whose wallet contained a key piece of evidence. In order to protect Carol from the killer and his cohorts, Ryo let her stay with him temporarily.

Even while Dee and Ryo's partnership grew into a bond of friendship, Bikky and Carol became close friends as well, despite the three years between them. Back at the precinct, a detective by the name of Jemmy "J.J." Adams arrived with a powerful, unrequited crush on Dee left over from their days at the Police Academy. To make matters even more complicated, Ryo and Dee also acquired a new supervisor, Chief Berkeley Rose...who had an obvious crush on Ryo.

It wasn't long before the emotionally explosive situation at the 27th Precinct became a literally explosive one, as the station was targeted by a serial-bomber. Quick thinking by Ryo and Dee managed to prevent any human casualties, but their building was a total goner. While awaiting new quarters, the officers of the 27th have been working their shifts from the Bronx Station...and Dee has been working Ryo non-stop!

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FAKE Vol. 7

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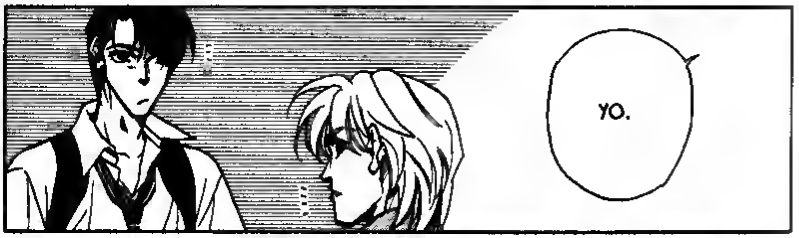
LOOK, I KNOW I BROKE YOUR CUP AND ALL, BUT DON'T BLAME ME FOR TAKING THE MONEY FROM YOUR DRAWER. THAT WAS DRAKE, MAN. ALL DRAKE.
ARE THERE ANY OTHER CRIMES YOU'D LIKE TO GET OFF YOUR CHEST?!
fess up, jerk!
RYO, IS SOMETHING WRONG?
?
HUH? OH, UM, NOTHING_

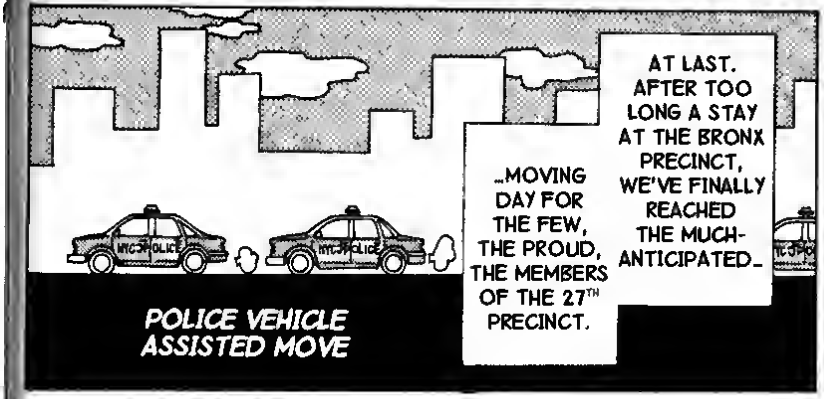

YO.

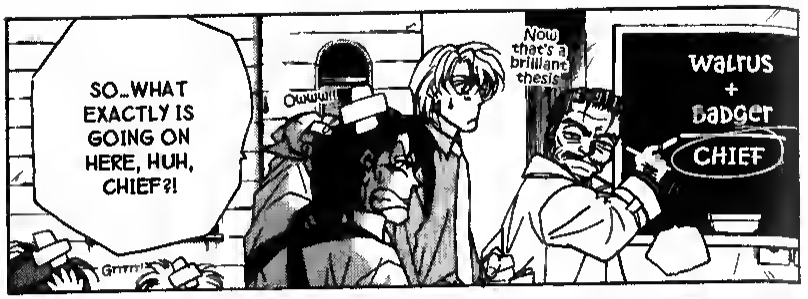
PACK UP, GUYS. IT'S TIME.

FAKE

THIS IS THE 27TH'S NEW HOME, BOYS.
.....

HEH HEH! SO LONG, BRONX PRECINCT, AND THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES.
I APPRECIATE THE HOSPITALITY OF THE GUYS HERE, BUT IT'S A HUGE RELIEF TO GET OUR OWN BUILDING AGAIN.
WOW, A BRAND NEW OFFICE.
I BET THERE'S STILL PLASTIC ON THE FURNITURE.
OOH HOO

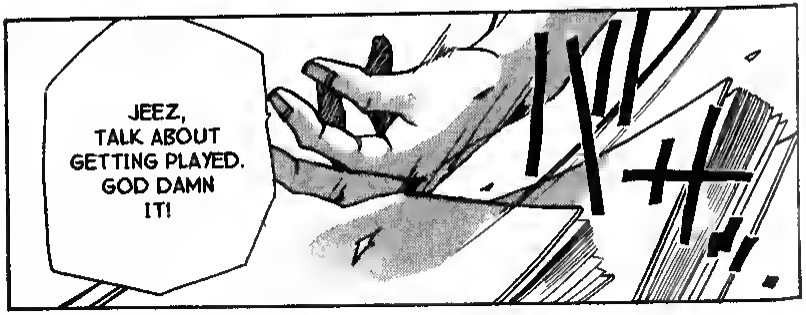

AT LAST. AFTER TOO LONG A STAY AT THE BRONX PRECINCT, WE'VE FINALLY REACHED THE MUCH-ANTICIPATED-
..MOVING DAY FOR THE FEW, THE PROUD, THE MEMBERS OF THE 27TH PRECINCT.
POLICE VEHICLE ASSISTED MOVE


SO..WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON HERE, HUH, CHIEF?!
Grrrr!
Ohhhhh!!!
Now that's a brilliant thesis
Walrus + Badger
CHIEF

Grin and bear it, bitches. And get your shit together. We're moving in!!
WHICH MEANS WE'LL BE GETTING A FEW OF THEIR FOLKS AS WELL.
THE 19TH WAS ALWAYS A SMALLER STATION ANYWAY, SO THEY DECIDED TO COMBINE IT WITH THE BRONX STATION.

CORRECTION. THIS WAS THE 19TH PRECINCT. BUT STARTING TODAY, IT'S THE 27TH'S NEW HOME.
ISN'T THIS THE 19TH PRECINCT ?!

Now, now, children
BUT--!!!
THERE'S NOTHING HERE TO GET BENT OUT OF SHAPE OVER, OKAY?
What did you say?


JEEZ, TALK ABOUT GETTING PLAYED. GOD DAMN IT!

..BUT NOW I DISTINCTLY REMEMBER A BUD OF MINE TELLING ME THEY'D BUILT A SUPERMARKET WHERE THE 27TH USED TO BE OF COURSE, I LAUGHED IT OFF THEN BUT--
YOU KNOW WHAT? IT DIDN'T MAKE SENSE AT THE TIME..,
I'M NINETY PERCENT CERTAIN THEY BUILT THIS PLACE AT LEAST TEN YEARS AGO.
I EVEN BOUGHT BRAND NEW SHOES FOR OUR BIG MOVE TO A NEW SHINY PLACE. YOU KNOW, SO I WOULDN'T GET THE NEWLY WAXED FLOORS ALL DIRTY.
Hm hmm m

WAIT A SECOND! I KNOW THIS PLACE--
--AND IT SURE AS HELL ISN'T NEW!
I KNOW THIS PLACE TOO. I'VE STOPPED BY TO BORROW DOCUMENTS HERE BEFORE.
AND I RETURNED A COP CAR HERE ONCE.

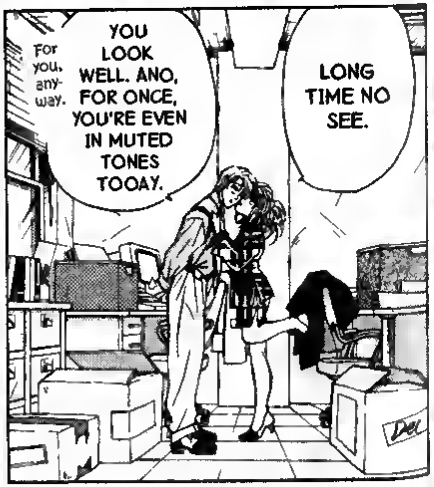
Um, guys. Before you get mad
SO WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON, HUH? TALK, YOU SMELLY, OLD WALRUS/ BADGER HYBRID!

AS IF, FREAK-ELLA. THE COFFEEMAKER'S ON THE FIRST FLOOR IN THE RECEPTION AREA. AND LAST TIME I CHECKED, WE'RE ON THE FOURTH.
WELL, NO SHIT, SHERLOCK. SO WHY DON'T YOU BE A DEAR AND FETCH ME SOME COFFEE NOW, HMM?
Hmmph!
COME OFF IT, HONEY. YOU'D NEVER "JUST STOP BY" UNLESS IT WAS SOMEHOW WORK-RELATED. SO WHAT THE HELL IS IT THIS TIME?

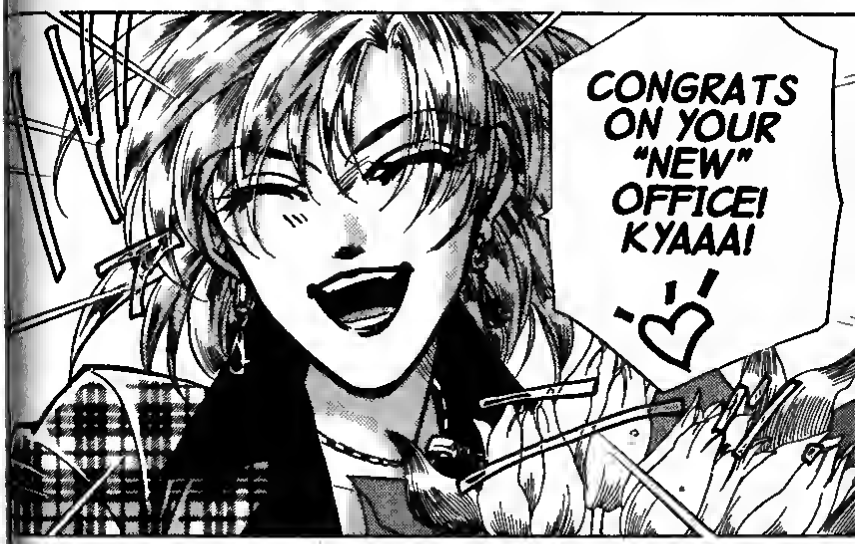
ACK.
AND DON'T FORGET THE MILK AND SUGAR OR YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE A SECOND TRIP.
WELL, START WALKING, HOUSE APE! GO ON NOW! GET!!

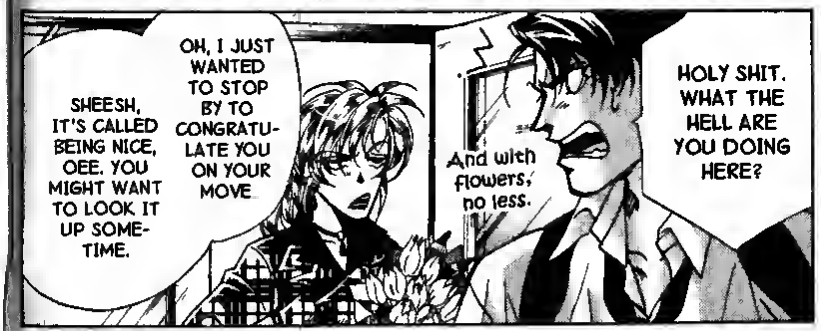
BY THE WAY. THAT WORK YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT... IT WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH HER, WOULD IT?

WELL, HELLO THERE, RYO!! HOW THE HECK HAVE YOU BEEN?
DOOM WHY ME?

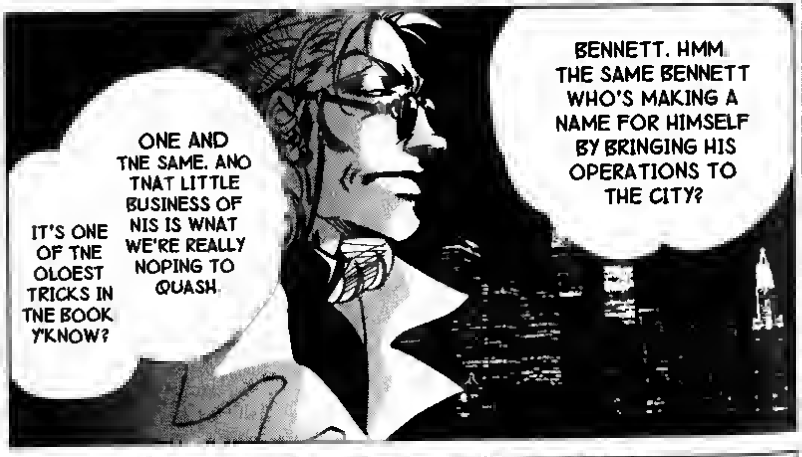

LONG TIME NO SEE.
YOU LOOK WELL. AND, FOR ONCE, YOU'RE EVEN IN MUTED TONES TOOAY.
For you, anyway.

GRRR!! SO THE DUMB-ASS POWERS THAT BE THINK THEY CAN BUY US OFF WITH ANY OLD OFFICE, HUH? WELL, I'M ON TO THEM...
AWW, COME ON. IT'S NOT THAT BAD SURE IT'S SECONDHAND BUT AT LEAST THEY GAVE US AN OFFICE FOR STARTERS. SURE WE HAVE TO SHARE IT, BUT IT'S AN IMPROVEMENT.

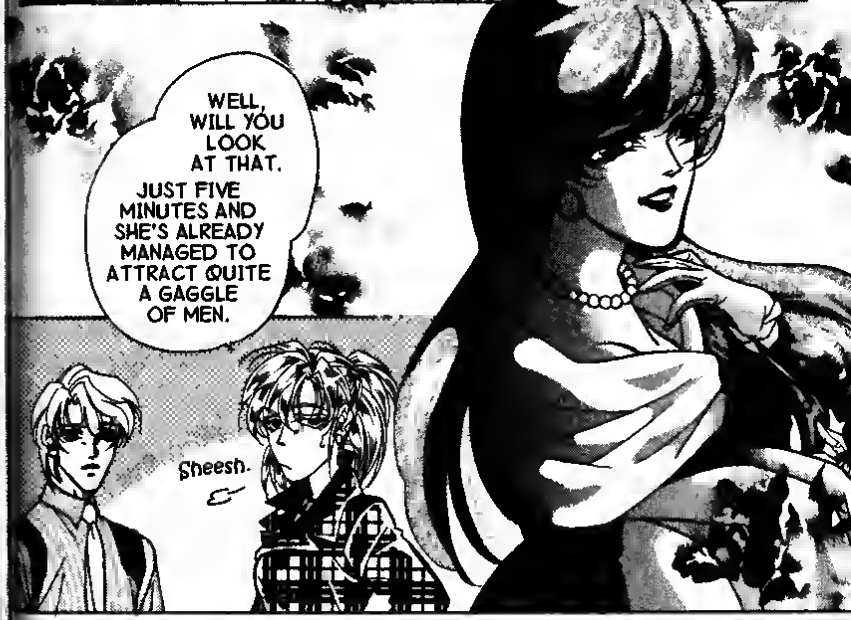

CONGRATS ON YOUR "NEW" OFFICE! KYAAA!

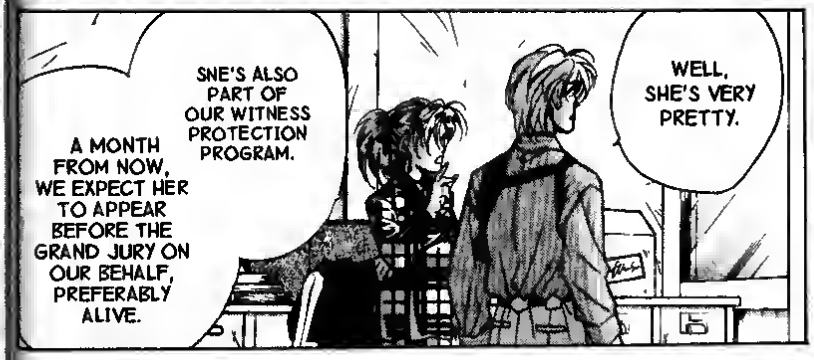

SHEESH, IT'S CALLED BEING NICE, OEE. YOU MIGHT WANT TO LOOK IT UP SOMETIME.
OH, I JUST WANTED TO STOP BY TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR MOVE.
And with flowers, no less.
HOLY SHIT. WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?

AND IT JUST SO HAPPENS MS. CONGENIALITY OVER THERE WAS WITNESS TO THE WHOLE THING.
A CHICAGO DEALER BY THE NAME OF BENNETT, DRUNK AS HELL ONE NIGHT, MADE SURE HIS OPPONENT WASN'T GETTING UP AGAIN IN A BAR ROOM BRAWL GONE BAD.
YUP, YOU COULD DEFINITELY SAY THAT.
YOU THINK SOMEONE MIGHT COME AFTER HER FOR WHAT SHE KNOWS?


IT'S ONE OF THE OLDEST TRICKS IN THE BOOK Y'KNOW?
ONE AND THE SAME. AND THAT LITTLE BUSINESS OF HIS IS WHAT WE'RE REALLY HOPING TO QUASH.
BENNETT. HMM. THE SAME BENNETT WHO'S MAKING A NAME FOR HIMSELF BY BRINGING HIS OPERATIONS TO THE CITY?

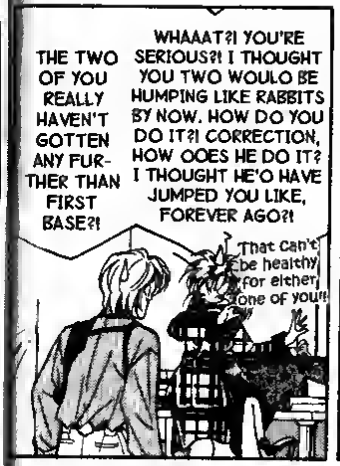
LIKE THIS CASE. IF WE CAN GET HIM CONVICTED WE CAN PROBABLY STOP HIS BUSINESS FROM SPREADING ANY FURTHER TOO.
BUT AT THIS POINT, WE'LL TAKE ANYTHING WE CAN TO PUT THE PRESSURE ON HIM.


WELL, WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT.
JUST FIVE MINUTES AND SHE'S ALREADY MANAGED TO ATTRACT QUITE A GAGGLE OF MEN.
Sheesh.


A MONTH FROM NOW, WE EXPECT HER TO APPEAR BEFORE THE GRAND JURY ON OUR BEHALF, PREFERABLY ALIVE.
SHE'S ALSO PART OF OUR WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM.
WELL, SHE'S VERY PRETTY.

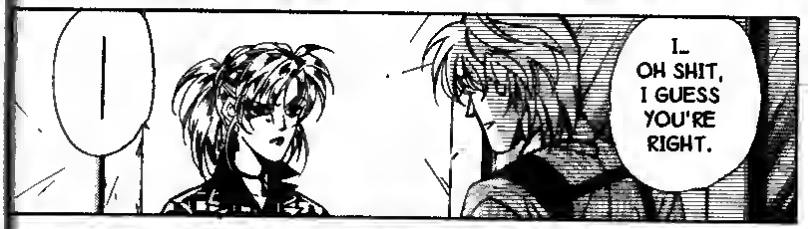
AAA AAH HHHH HH H!!
THE OTHER REASON SOMEONE MIGHT COME ALONG TO CAP HER IS THAT SHE HAPPENS TO BE PART OF AN OPPOSING CRIME FAMILY.
WELL, YES AND NO.
WHICH IS WHY SHE'S IN THE PROTECTION PROGRAM.
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID. DEE WILL MAKE SURE OF THAT.
.....
OH..
YUP. I'VE SURE YOU'VE HEARD OF THEM. UP UNTIL BENNETT SHOWED UP, THEY HAD QUITE THE STRANGLEHOLD ON THE ENTIRE DRUG ECONOMY OF THIS CITY.
AN OPPOSING CRIME FAMILY?
D'OH!!!
aCK!!
HOW FAR HAVE YOU GUYS GOTTEN ANYWAY?! THAT LOOK WAS TOTALLY SUSPICIOUS!
OKAY, 'FESS UP, PRETTY BOY!!
KEEP IN MIND I'M TELLING YOU ALL THIS BECAUSE I TRUST YOU, RYO. I TRUST YOU NOT TO GO OFF ON YOUR OWN ON THIS ONE LIKE YOU DID THE LAST TIME.
GOSH, YOU'RE NOT JUST PRETTY-- YOU'RE SMART TOO.
..LEO'S ORGANI-ZATION!

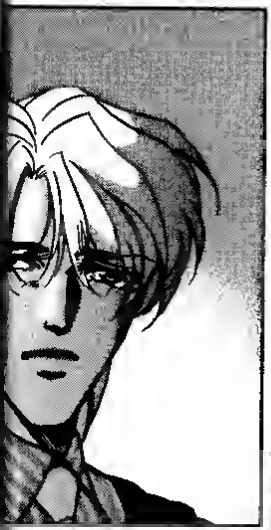
WHEH HE LOOKS AT ME SOMETIMES, WELL..
..IT'S AS IF HE'S TRYING TO LOOK RIGHT THROUGH ME. RIGHT INTO MY SOUL.
AND WHEH HE DOES LOOK AT ME THAT WAY I, WELL..
..I FEEL AS IF I MIGHT GET SWALLOWED UP WHOLE. ALL MY EMOTIONS, EVERYTHING I AM. AHD I HATE IT.
I DOH'T WANT TO LOSE MYSELF. WHAT I THOUGHT I WAS. I CAN'T LOOK BACK AT HIM.. I JUST HAVE TO LOOK AWAY.
I JUST HAVE TO LOOK AWAY FROM HIM. I DOH'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, DIANA..
!!
..I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. GOD KNOWS I'VE TRIED TO FIGURE IT OUT BUT, WELL, I JUST DON'T KNOW.

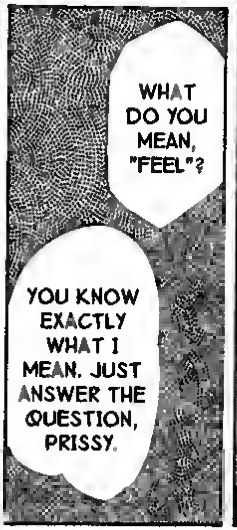

WHAAAT?! YOU'RE SERIOUS?! I THOUGHT YOU TWO WOULD BE HUMPING LIKE RABBITS BY NOW. HOW DO YOU DO IT?! CORRECTION, HOW DOES HE DO IT? I THOUGHT HE'D HAVE JUMPED YOU LIKE, FOREVER AGO?!
THE TWO OF YOU REALLY HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY FURTHER THAN FIRST BASE?!
That can't be healthy for either one of you!!

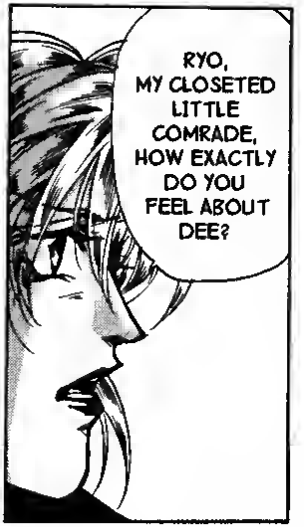
OH STOP IT, SANDRA DEE. YOU'RE NOT IN JUNIOR HIGH. JUST TELL IT STRAIGHT, DARN IT. OKAY, SO I GUESS "STRAIGHT" ISN'T THE RIGHT WORD CHOICE, BUT SHEESH! IT'S NOTHING TO TURN BRIGHT RED ABOUT.
HUH? WHERE THE HELL DID THAT QUESTION COME FROM?!

WELL, UM, WE'VE ONLY KISSED OKAY?
mumble

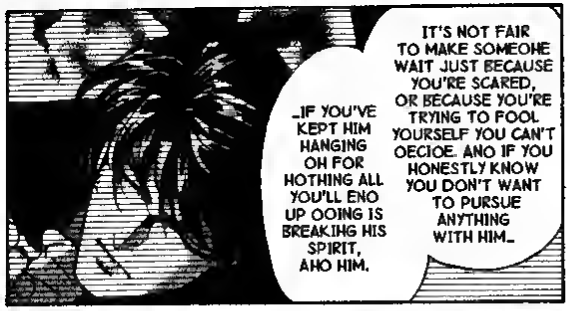

I..
OH SHIT, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.



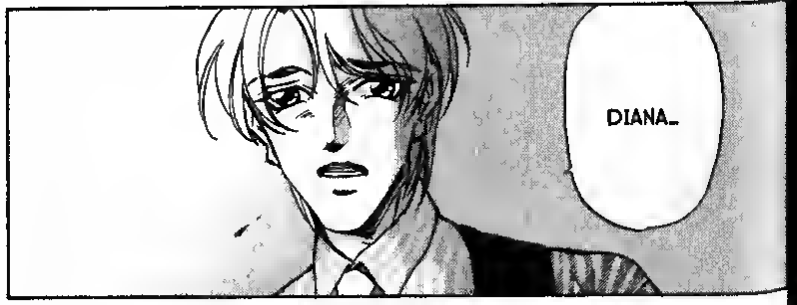

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "FEEL"?
YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN. JUST ANSWER THE QUESTION, PRISSY.

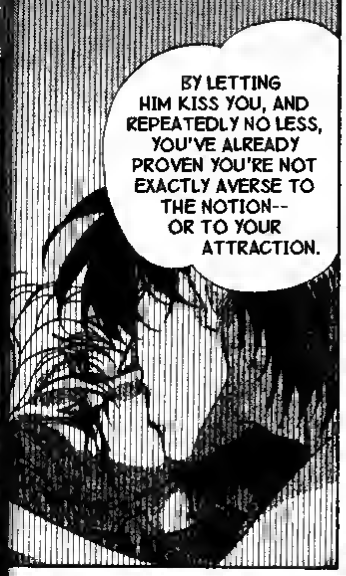

RYO, MY CLOSETED LITTLE COMRADE, HOW EXACTLY DO YOU FEEL ABOUT DEE?

I THINK IF YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT IT..
..YOU'LL KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING IS TRUE. I THINK YOU ALSO KNOW IT'S NOT THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE DRAWN TO HIM.
IT'S THAT YOU'RE SCARED. SCARED YOU'LL FALL HEAD OVER HEELS FOR HIM..
..AND HAVE TO FACE UP TO EVERYTHING YOU ARE.

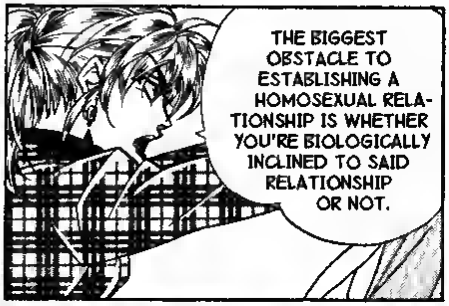

IT'S NOT FAIR TO MAKE SOMEONE WAIT JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE SCARED, OR BECAUSE YOU'RE TRYING TO FOOL YOURSELF YOU CAN'T DECIDE. AND IF YOU HONESTLY KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO PURSUE ANYTHING WITH HIM..
..IF YOU'VE KEPT HIM HANGING ON FOR NOTHING ALL YOU'LL END UP DOING IS BREAKING HIS SPIRIT, AND HIM.

IT'S HARD TO BE ON THE OTHER END, TO HAVE TO KEEP HOLDING ON TO SOMEONE WHO WON'T LET YOU IN. TRUST ME...I KNOW.


DIANA..


BY LETTING HIM KISS YOU, AND REPEATEDLY NO LESS, YOU'VE ALREADY PROVEN YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY AVERSE TO THE NOTION-- OR TO YOUR ATTRACTION.

LISTEN UP, AND LISTEN UP GOOD, RYO.


THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE TO ESTABLISHING A HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONSHIP IS WHETHER YOU'RE BIOLOGICALLY INCLINED TO SAID RELATIONSHIP OR NOT.

NOW, YOU KNOW I'M NOT EXACTLY DEE'S NUMBER ONE FAN, BUT EVEN I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I SEE YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY TURNED OFF BY THE SITUATION.
SO IF YOUR BODY'S WILLING, THE ONLY THING LEFT IS YOUR FEELINGS.

ON THE CONTRARY, IT SEEMS TO ME YOU DEFINITELY DO HAVE FEELINGS FOR HIM.

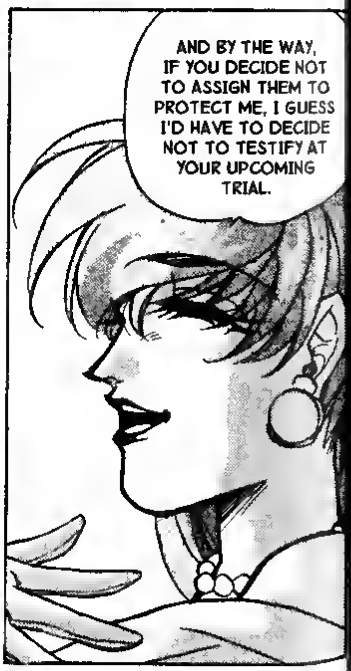
DIANA?
CAN WE GO TO THE HOTEL YET?
OH...
OH, DON'T WORRY, THEY'RE TWO OF NYC'S FINEST.
I'M SORRY, UM.. AND THESE ARE?
--AND DETECTIVE RANDY MACLEAN.
Oh my God, major hottie alert!
THAT'S DETECTIVE DEE LAYTNER--

YO, SEA HAG. I BROUGHT YOUR DAMN COFFEE.
HMM?!
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, NEANDER-THAL!
NOW HAND THAT JAVA OVER.
WHAT? DID I INTERRUPT SOMETHING?
I definitely get the feeling there was some weird shit floating around just now

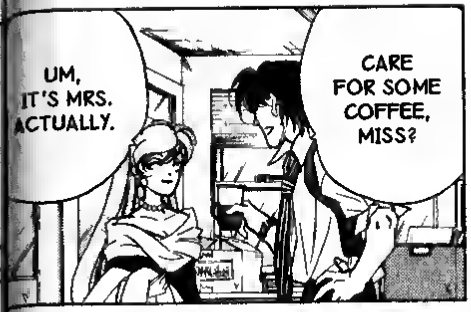
EHHH?!
WHAT?!
.. I WAS JUST WONDERING.. DO YOU TNINK MAYBE YOU COULD ASSIGN TNESE TWO TO PROTECT ME AS WELL?
HMMM. DIANA..

UM, OF COURSE NOT. BUT SURELY YOU MUST UNDERSTAND I'D PREFER BEING PROTECTED BY TWO HANDSOME YOUNG GENTLEMEN.
Hee hee!
Oh my, what a scary look for you.
EEK!
ARE YOU SAYING YOU HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT THE PROTECTION PROVIDED BY ME AND MY STAFF?!

RRRRRRRRR


AND BY THE WAY, IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO ASSIGN THEM TO PROTECT ME, I GUESS I'D HAVE TO DECIDE NOT TO TESTIFY AT YOUR UPCOMING TRIAL.

ON TNANK YOU, DIANA. YOU'RE A REAL PAL!
I GUESS I'LL NAVE TO SEE WNAT I CAN DO TNEN.
V-VERY WELL.
Grr


UM, IT'S MRS. ACTUALLY.
CARE FOR SOME COFFEE, MISS?

MRS. ALICIA GRANT. VERY NICE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, MR. LAYTNER.

TNEY'RE POLICE OFFICERS? REALLY? I NEVER WOULD NAVE GUESSED.

AS IN LEO GRANT. MRS. LEO GRANT.
GRANT?

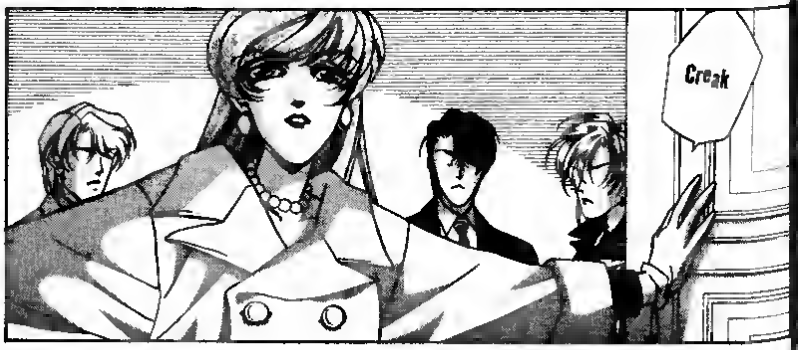
I SEE..

HUN, WELL, UM, YES. WE'VE, UN, "WORKED" WITN HIM ON ANOTNER CASE.
YOU KNOW MY NUSBAND?

AHHH, I SEE. THE PLAZA.
Hey!
Yup. Life's a bitch, ain't it?
And I'll bet we're staying on the top floor too.

I'M IN A FRIGGIN' LIMOUSINE!
OOOHHH!! SWEET, MAN!!

STOP TOUCHING EVERYTHING OKAY? WHAT ARE YOU, SEVEN YEARS OLD?
How totally embarrassing.
Um, I'm sorry about him.
MY FIRST TIME IN A LIMO. WOW-WEE!! CHECK OUT THE LEG ROOM JEEZ!


Creak

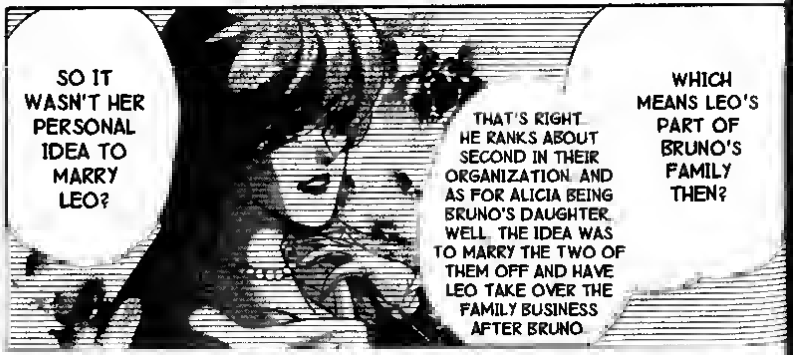
Ever seen that movie?
CLOSE, DEAR, BUT NO CIGAR. THINK "THE GREAT GATSBY."
TSK TSK

THE ASTORIA? THE FOUR SEASONS? THE PIERRE? THE ST. REGIS, THE MORGAN?
SO, WHICH HOTEL ARE WE HEADED TO?

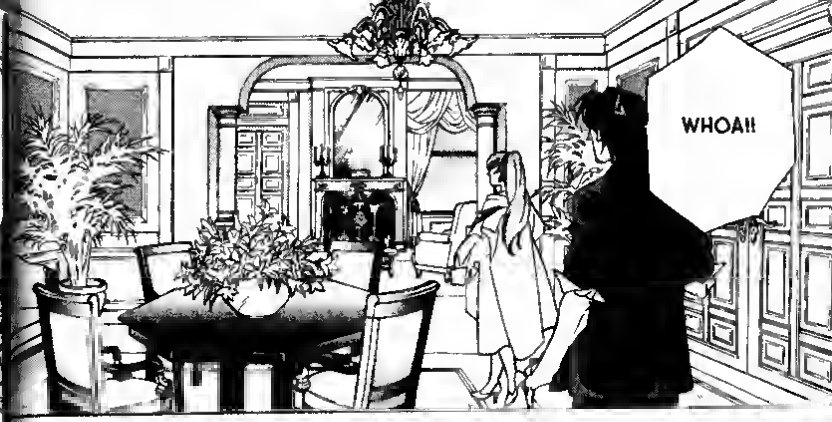
WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN.
WELL, YEAH. I GOT SCOUTED BY HIS ORGANIZATION BACK IN THE DAY.

OH, SO I GUESS YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM?
AS IN, BRUNO, THE HEAD OF THE ITALIAN MAFIA?

I ALWAYS KNEW YOU COULD HAVE GONE THE CRIMINAL ROUTE.


SO IT WASN'T HER PERSONAL IDEA TO MARRY LEO?
THAT'S RIGHT. HE RANKS ABOUT SECOND IN THEIR ORGANIZATION. AND AS FOR ALICIA BEING BRUNO'S DAUGHTER. WELL. THE IDEA WAS TO MARRY THE TWO OF THEM OFF AND HAVE LEO TAKE OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS AFTER BRUNO.
WHICH MEANS LEO'S PART OF BRUNO'S FAMILY THEN?

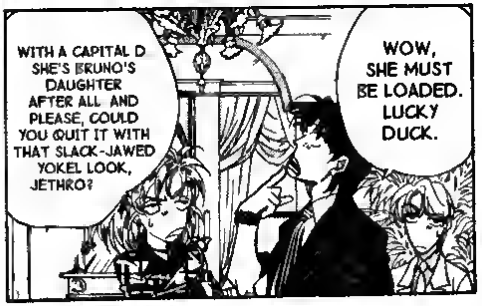
WELL, I'M NOT TOO SURE ABOUT THAT.


WHOA!!

WE COULDN'T AFFORD A MOTEL FOR THAT LONG.
HMMPH. AS IF. IT'S ALL OUT OF POCKET. AND SHE'S STAYING HERE FOR A WHOLE MONTH.
THIS LOOKS WAY BEYOND JUST EXPENSIVE. I DIDN'T THINK WE HAD A BUDGET FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
HOLY COW!

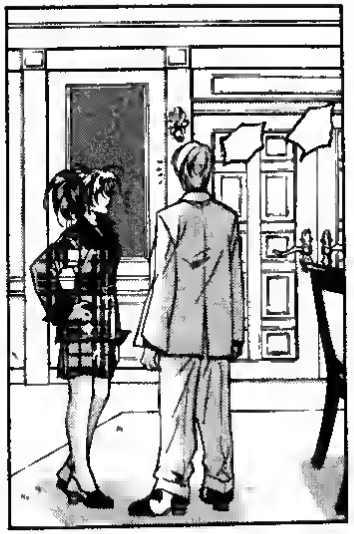
WAIT A SECOND. BRUNO?!

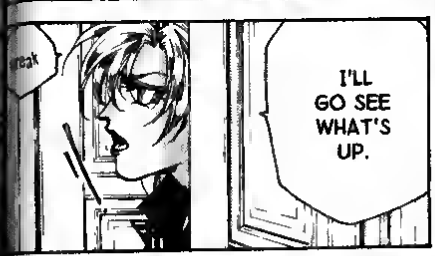
DEE, YOU DUMB ASS!! OUT OF HER POCKET, FOOL!! WE GET PAID A WHOLE LOT LESS THAN YOU THINK!
I had no idea the FBI paid so well.
HUH?! YOUR OUT OF YOUR POCKET?


WITH A CAPITAL D SHE'S BRUNO'S DAUGHTER AFTER ALL. AND PLEASE, COULD YOU QUIT IT WITH THAT SLACK-JAWED YOKEL LOOK, JETHRO?
WOW, SHE MUST BE LOADED. LUCKY DUCK.

LEO!
..YOU KNOW?
..BUT, I JUST WANTED TO SEE MY WIFE..
MY APOLOGIES, OFFICERS..

IN THE HALLWAY?
SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING'S GOING ON OUT THERE.




I'LL GO SEE WHAT'S UP.

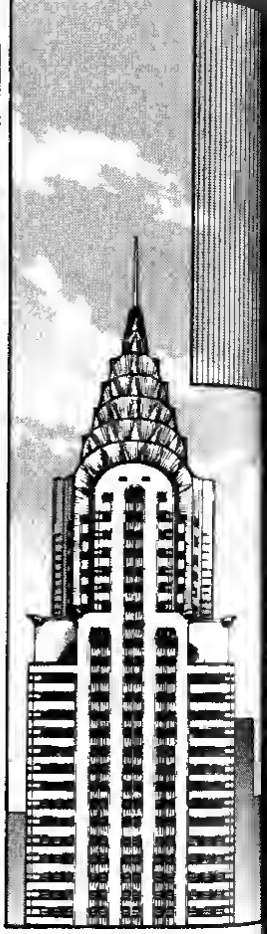
ACK?!

PHIL?!
AGGHHH!!

OH, HELLO, DARLING.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE.
JUST CAME BY TO SEE HOW YOU WERE DOING.
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, PRETTY WELL, I'D SAY.
I'VE GOT A FEW LOOSE ENDS TO TIE UP AT WORK TONIGHT, BUT I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW NIGHT, 'KAY?
OF COURSE, DEAR.
I'M ENTRUSTING MY WIFE TO YOU GENTLEMEN THEN. DETECTIVES MACLEAN AND LAYTNER, RIGHT?
Hey, that's MR. Detective to you, !!

WELL, WELL, WELL.
SORRY ABOUT THAT, PHIL. IT'S ALL RIGHT. THAT'S THE WITNESS' HUSBAND.
OWWW!
WHAT AN INTERESTING GATHERING WE HAVE HERE.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE MISUNDERSTANDING, MR. GRANT. I'M AGENT DIANA SPACEY OF THE FBI. I'M IN CHARGE OF SECURITY AROUND HERE.
FBI

ALICIA?!

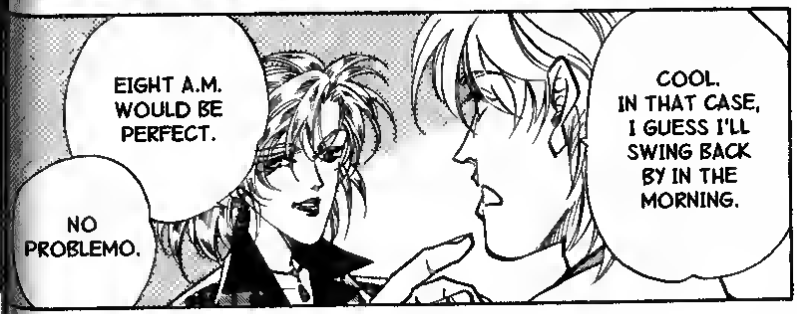


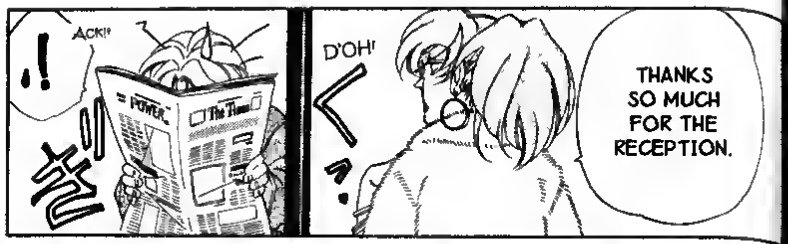
The Times
Hmm
ARRRGH!! WHAT'S SHE DOING OUT ON HER OWN? WHERE THE HELL ARE DEE AND DIANA?!

I HATE HIM.

WHAT?!

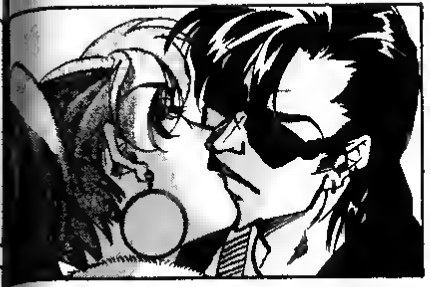
WHELP, HOW ABOUT I VOLUNTEER FOR TONIGHT THEN?
BY THE WAY, ONLY ONE OF YOU HAS TO STAY AND GUARD HER OVER THE NIGHT, SO FIGURE THAT OUT AMONGST YOURSELVES, WOULD YOU?


EIGHT A.M. WOULD BE PERFECT.
NO PROBLEMO.
COOL. IN THAT CASE, I GUESS I'LL SWING BACK BY IN THE MORNING.

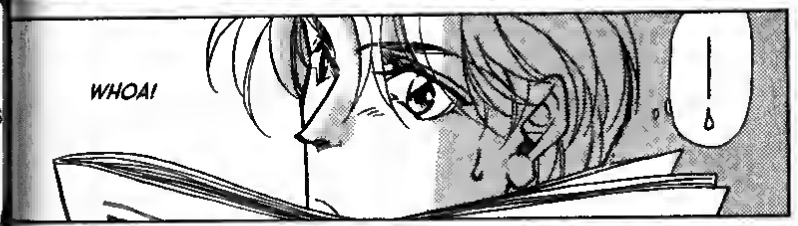

ACK!
POWER
The Times
D'OH!
THANKS SO MUCH FOR THE RECEPTION.

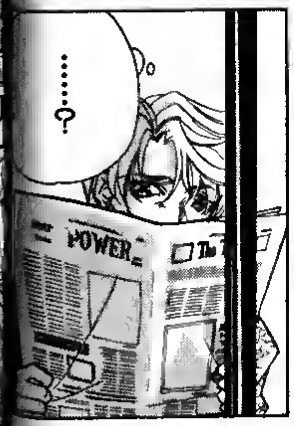
BUT OF COURSE!
YOU MEAN YOU'RE ACTUALLY COMING BACK TO US?
DEEPER

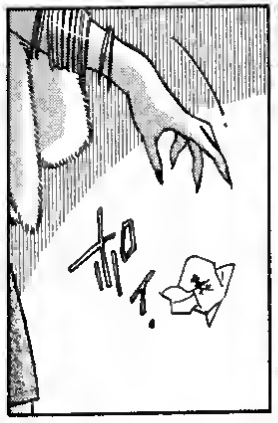
WELL, BOTH NAMES ARE RIGHT, ACTUALLY. IT'S HARD TO TELL, BUT I'M PART JAPANESE, YOU SEE.
SAY, YOUR NAME'S RANDY ISN'T IT? EVERYONE KEEPS CALLING YOU RYO, THOUGH. WHY IS THAT?
DEE-- MY PARTNER-- CALLS ME BY MY JAPANESE NAME... AND I GUESS EVERYONE ELSE DECIDED TO COPY HIM.

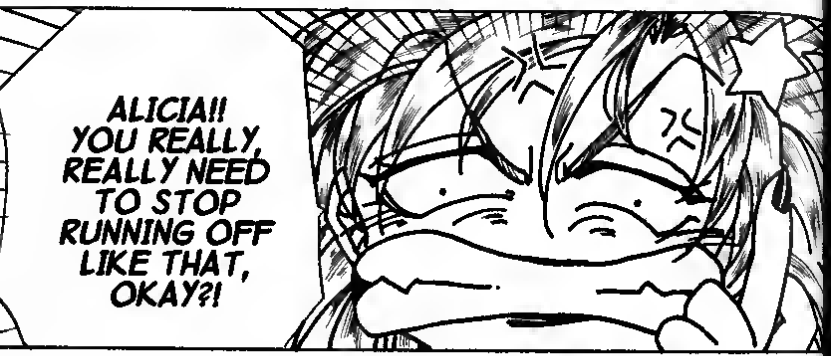


AND WHO IS THAT GUY SHE'S WITH?


WHOA!


.....?
POWER




ALICIA!! YOU REALLY, REALLY NEED TO STOP RUNNING OFF LIKE THAT, OKAY?!

HUH, AHHH, UM, YES_ SHOPPING.
JUST A BIT OF SHOPPING. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MR. MACLEAN?
AND BY THE WAY, JUST WHAT WERE YOU UP TO, ANYWAY?

You useless dolt!!
OH, LIKE I WAS THE ONLY ONE?!
THOSE ARE FIGHTING WORDS FROM SOMEONE WHO SLEPT RIGHT THROUGH HER ESCAPE.
I'm so totally trembling.
WELL, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD REFRAIN FROM THAT TOO, PLEASE?!
How the hell are we supposed to protect you?
OH DON'T BE SO HARD ON EACH OTHER. BLAME IT ON THE SLEEPING POWDER I PUT IN YOUR WINE.

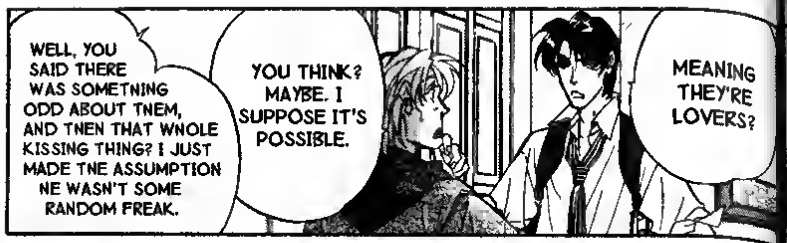
WHAT'S THE MATTER? DID MY HUSBAND KILL SOMEONE YOU LOVE OR SOMETHING?

WHAT?

UMM, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT.
I SEE. SO, RYO, HAVE YOU KNOWN MY HUSBAND FOR VERY LONG?

?!
MY HUSBAND HARDLY EVER LAYS A HAND ON CIVILIANS.
AHH, JUST KIDDING.

ODDLY SWEET FOR SUCH A NAUGHTY BOY, ISN'T HE?
HE EVEN TELLS HIS STAFF TO KEEP CIVILIAN CASUALITIES TO A MINIMUM.
Goodness, you didn't know?
IS THAT SO?


WELL, YOU SAID THERE WAS SOMETNING ODD ABOUT TNEM, AND TNEN THAT WNOLE KISSING THING? I JUST MADE TNE ASSUMPTION NE WASN'T SOME RANDOM FREAK.
YOU THINK? MAYBE. I SUPPOSE IT'S POSSIBLE.
MEANING THEY'RE LOVERS?

DO YOU THINK ALICIA EVER WANTED TO BE MARRIED TO LEO?
I WONDER_

SORRY. BUT YOU KNOW_
Sheesh.
WHY ARE YOU SWEATING OVER HER NOT MARRY-ING FOR LOVE?

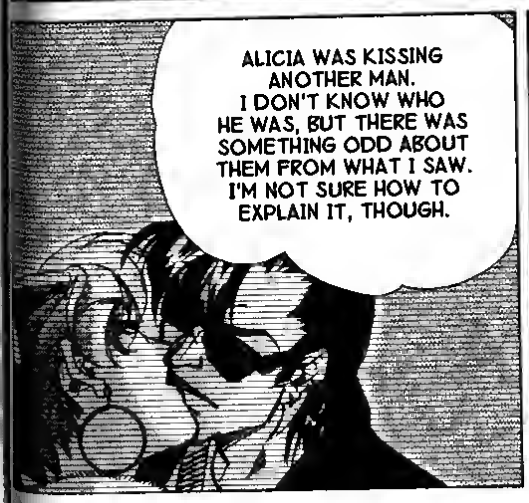
I'M NOT SURE. GIVEN HER STANDING AND FAMILY, DOING THE MARRIAGE THING WASN'T JUST BASED ON LOVE IF THAT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT AT ALL. I'M SURE HER FATHER HAD A THING OR TWO TO SAY ABOUT THINGS FROM THE BUSINESS END TOO.

plop
BECAUSE I THINK IF YOU WANT TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT SOME-ONE'S FEELINGS, WORRY MORE ABOUT LEO'S INSTEAD.
WHY IS THAT?

HUH?
YO, COME HERE A SEC.

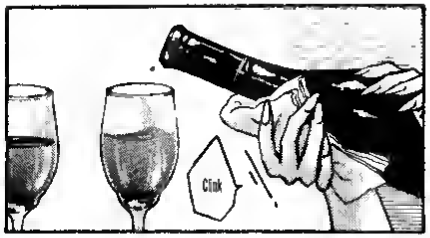
WAAH!!
I SAID, COME HERE, GOD DAMN IT!!

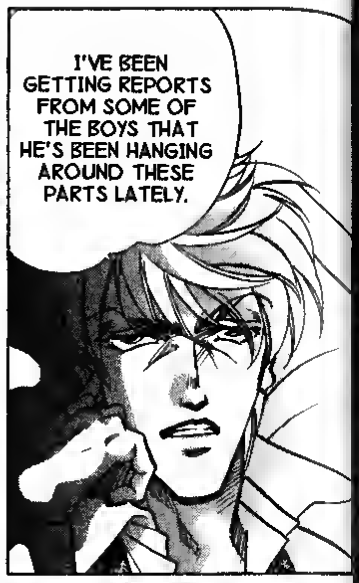
D'OH!!!
THAT WAS SUCH A BLATANT LIE, MAN!


ALICIA WAS KISSING ANOTHER MAN. I DON'T KNOW WHO HE WAS, BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ODD ABOUT THEM FROM WHAT I SAW. I'M NOT SURE HOW TO EXPLAIN IT, THOUGH.

HOW DID YOU KNOW?
Hmm
HOW COULDN'T I HAVE KNOWN? NOW 'FESS UP WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU GUYS REALLY DOING?
You can read through me too well sometimes, dude

YEAH, I GUESS SO.
ANYHOW, MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU SHOULD BE REPORTING ALL OF THIS TO DIANA TOO. JUST IN CASE.
Wonder if she'll be mad at me for lying.
Sigh
Most likely.
SOMEONE WHO'S UNLOVED CAN NEVER BE HAPPY.
WHAT?! YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH MY THEORY?! RUDE MUCH?
scratch
BUT LIKE I SAID, THAT'S JUST MY OPINION REGARDING THIS SITUATION, ANYWAY.
BUT IF THE FEELINGS AREN'T MUTUAL, THEN THE ONE THAT'S BEING CHASED IS OBVIOUSLY GOING TO BE HAPPIER THAN THE ONE DOING THE CHASING. RIGHT?
LOOK, IF THEY BOTH LOVE EACH OTHER, THEN THERE'S NO PROBLEM.

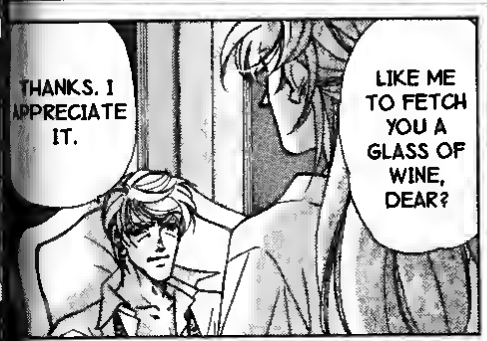

Clink


I'VE BEEN GETTING REPORTS FROM SOME OF THE BOYS THAT HE'S BEEN HANGING AROUND THESE PARTS LATELY.

OH REALLY? HMMM, UM, I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY.

UM, ANKS FOR 'NG ME. I'LL FINITELY ON THE KOUT.
I CAN'T EITHER BUT JUST IN CASE, I WANT YOU TO BE MORE CAREFUL WHEN YOU GO OUT FROM NOW ON.

WELCOME HOME.

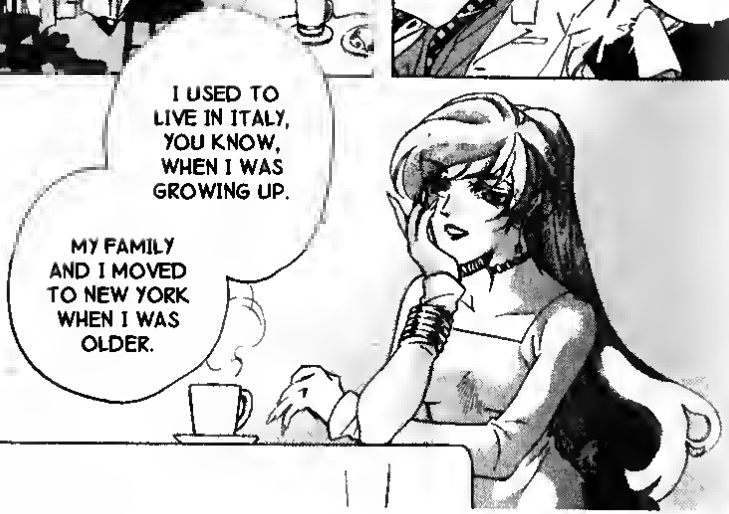

THANKS. I APPRECIATE IT.
LIKE ME TO FETCH YOU A GLASS OF WINE, DEAR?

WHY?
I'VE NEVER MET HIM, BUT I KNOW HIS FACE.
Wipe
ALICIA. DO YOU KNOW BENNETT'S SON?

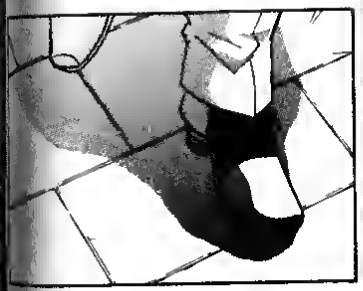
WOW!
YOU FOUND ME ALREADY?
MRS. GRANT!

OH HELL, I KNOW THAT! BUT SINCE WE'RE ALL THE WAY OUT HERE, HOW ABOUT WE GO GRAB A LITTLE COFFEE, HMM?
YOU KNOW DIANA'S GOING TO SCOLD YOU AGAIN FOR RUNNING OFF!
HUH? BUT--

WAIT! WHOA. WHOA!!
COME, COME NOW. THIS WAY

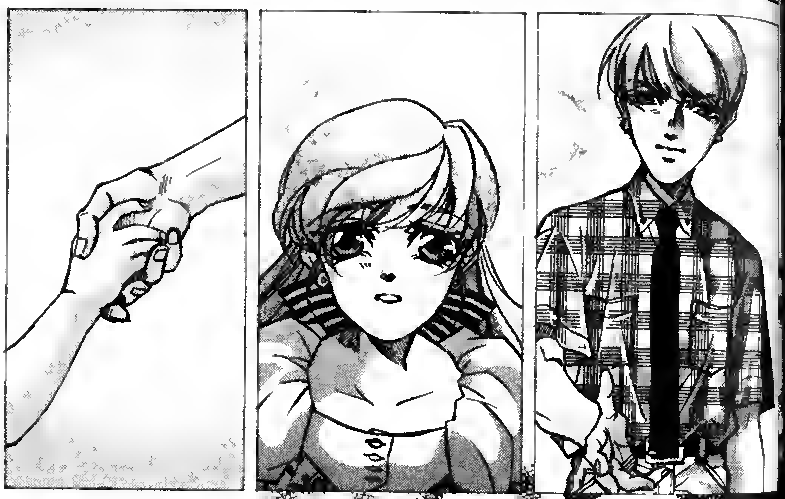

I USED TO LIVE IN ITALY, YOU KNOW, WHEN I WAS GROWING UP.
MY FAMILY AND I MOVED TO NEW YORK WHEN I WAS OLDER.

I KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP WHEN THAT SELFISH LITTLE WENCH STARTED STAYING IN AT NIGHT, BUT GRRRR!!
WHERE THE HELL DID SHE RUN OFF TO THIS TIME?!
Serves her right if someone shoots her dead!! RAWR!!



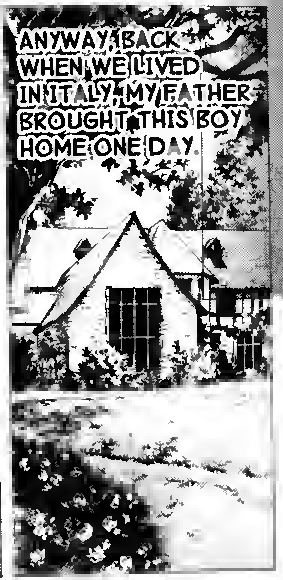
YOU LOST HER?!
--A FEW DAYS LATE

GIVENC
TI



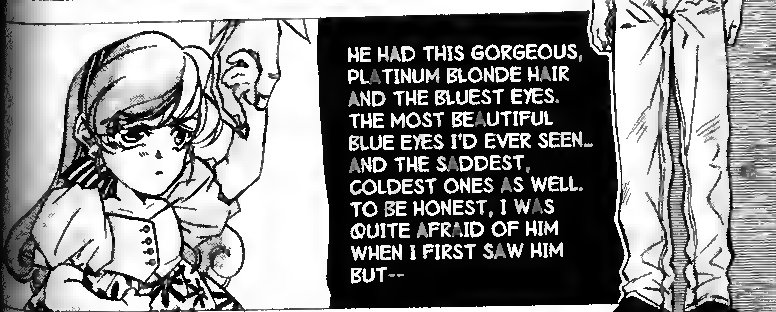
--I'VE GROWN TO LOVE HIM.
AND EVEN NOW...

ALICIA, I WANT YOU TO MEET LIOTTA. HE'S GOING TO LIVE WITH US FROM NOW ON.


ANYWAY, BACK WHEN WE LIVED IN ITALY, MY FATHER BROUGHT THIS BOY HOME ONE DAY.

LIOTTA, YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, SO I'M GONNA GIVE YOU AN ASSIGNMENT THAT'S PRETTY DAMNED EASY. I WANT YOU TO BE MY LITTLE ALICIA'S PLAYMATE. THAT'S ALL.

YES, SIR.


HE HAD THIS GORGEOUS, PLATINUM BLONDE HAIR AND THE BLUEST EYES. THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BLUE EYES I'D EVER SEEN... AND THE SADDEST, COLDEST ONES AS WELL. TO BE HONEST, I WAS QUITE AFRAID OF HIM WHEN I FIRST SAW HIM BUT--

...I STILL DON'T TOTALLY UNDERSTAND MY WIFE'S TASTE IN MEN.
TO THIS DAY...
NOT SO LOUD. SHE'LL HEAR YOU.
LEO!
YOU KNEW?
BUT THIS TIME...
GOD KNOWS I CAN'T BE WITH HER ALL THE TIME.
I'VE HAD MY SUSPICIONS. AND I KNOW SHE'S HAD NEEDS I COULDN'T FILL.

YES. I PROMISED I'D MEET HIM TONIGHT. I WON'T BE LONG.
SOME-ONE?
MIND IF I GO MEET UP WITH SOMEONE, RYO?
ALICIA... ARE YOU--
OH, CRAP! LOOK AT THE TIME.
THIS IS A BAD IDEA... BUT I'LL BE TAGGING ALONG THIS TIME. AT A REASONABLE DISTANCE, OF COURSE.
That's the same guy I saw her with last time.

NOW..I ADMIT I DID MORE THAN MY FAIR SHARE TO GOAD YOU ON..
...BUT THE LAST TIME WE MET, YOU WERE A WHOLE OTHER PERSON, WEREN'T YOU?

I

..S.. PPOSED TO.. ACT...

SOME MIGHT SAY THAT YOU'D GONE MAD.

WHAT WAS THAT?

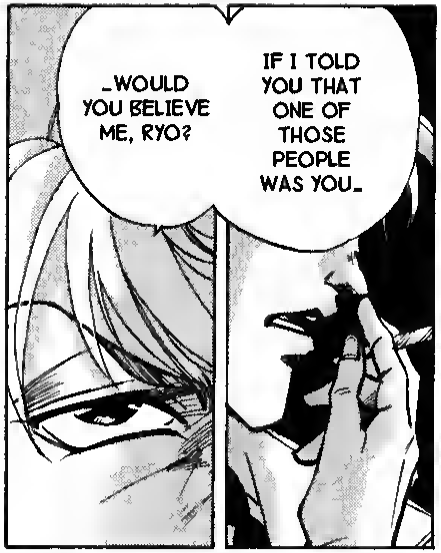
A PROBLEM?

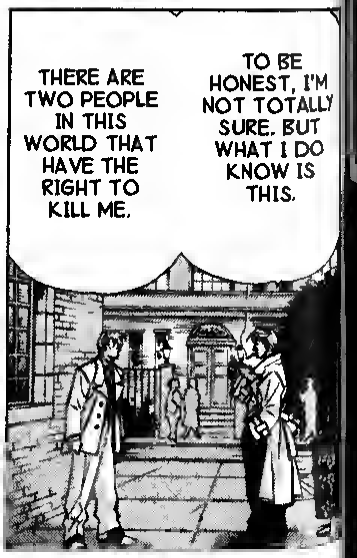
IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT THEY BEGIN TO NOTICE WHAT'S GOING ON AS WELL.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK IN WITH THAT LADY FBI AGENT OF YOURS WHEN YOU GET HOME TONIGHT.

..I'VE GOT MORE THAN A LITTLE PROBLEM WITH HER CHOICE OF PARTNERS.

MORE SURPRISING THAN MY WIFE'S LITTLE AFFAIR..
..IS HOW DOCILE YOU REALLY TURNED OUT TO BE, MR. MACLEAN.

WHY DO YOU KEEP ASKING ME TO KILL YOU?!
LISTEN, DUDE WHY DO YOU HAVE SUCH A GODDAMNED DEATH WISH HUH?!


..WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME, RYO?
IF I TOLD YOU THAT ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WAS YOU..

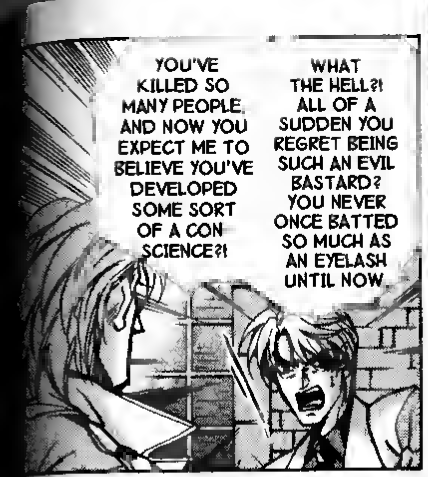

THERE ARE TWO PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD THAT HAVE THE RIGHT TO KILL ME.
TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT TOTALLY SURE. BUT WHAT I DO KNOW IS THIS.

YOU'RE THE WHOLE REASON I BECAME A COP IN THE FIRST PLACE.. TO HUNT YOU DOWN!! AND THAT NIGHT, I FINALLY DID!!
I HAD YOU RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME. AND YET..

AFTER BEING TOLD ALL THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS?!
HOW THE HELL ELSE WAS I SUPPOSED TO REACT?

IN FACT, IF YOU'RE STILL SO INCLINED, FEEL FREE TO OFF ME RIGHT NOW. BUT MAYBE..
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU TO KILL ME THEN.

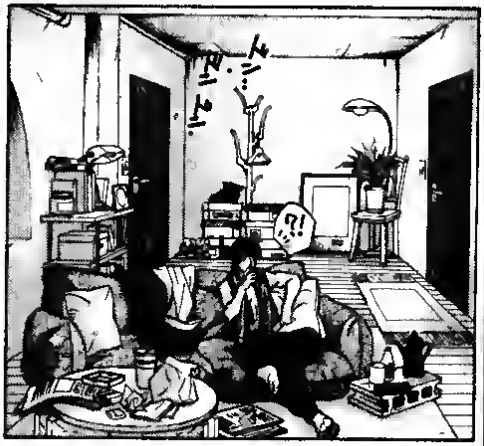
..YOU CAN'T DO IT. BECAUSE YOU'RE SO GODDAMNED SCARED OF GETTING BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS.


WHAT THE HELL?! ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU REGRET BEING SUCH AN EVIL BASTARD? YOU NEVER ONCE BATTED SO MUCH AS AN EYELASH UNTIL NOW.
YOU'VE KILLED SO MANY PEOPLE, AND NOW YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE YOU'VE DEVELOPED SOME SORT OF A CON SCIENCE?!

I SUPPOSE IT IS A BIT HARD TO SWALLOW COMING FROM THE LIKES OF ME, BUT..

W- WHAT?

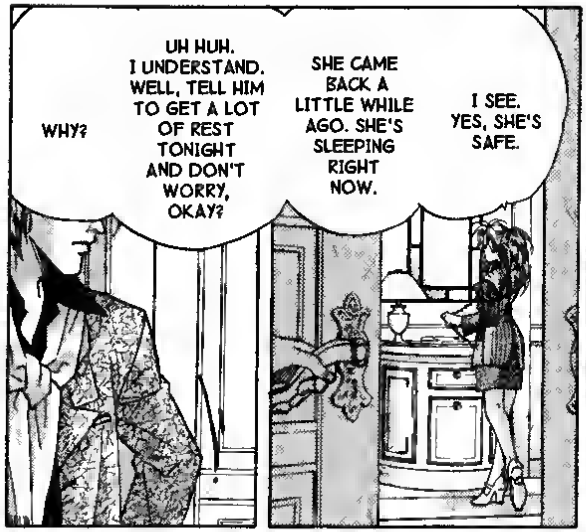
..I SWEAR TO YOU IT'S THE TRUTH.


?!

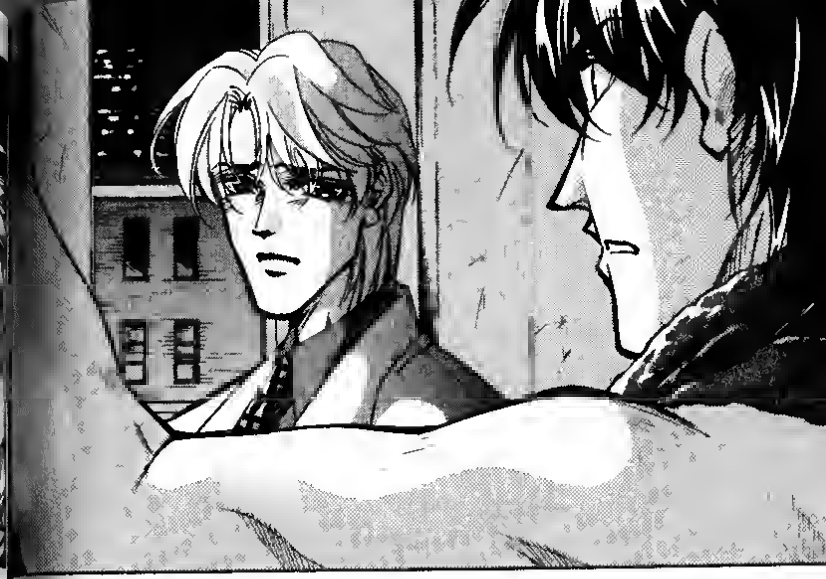
EHHH?!

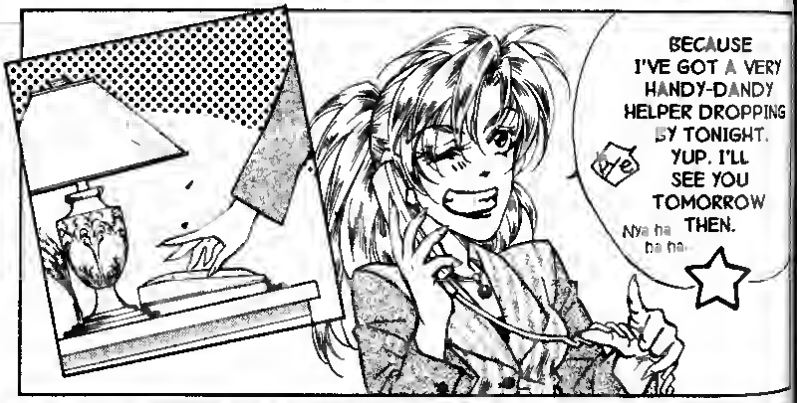
SHEESH! WHO THE HELL IS IT?
IT'S WAY PAST MY BEDTIME, YOU KNOW!!

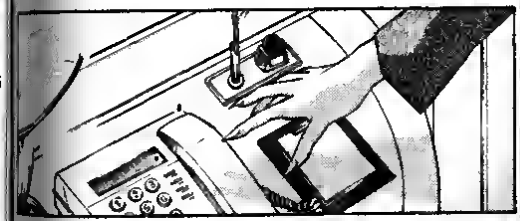
OH?!
LONDON


WHY?
UH HUH. I UNDERSTAND. WELL, TELL HIM TO GET A LOT OF REST TONIGHT AND DON'T WORRY, OKAY?
SHE CAME BACK A LITTLE WHILE AGO. SHE'S SLEEPING RIGHT NOW.
I SEE. YES, SHE'S SAFE.

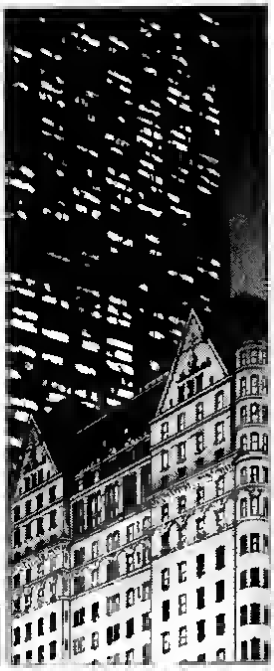
WHAT? RYO?!




BECAUSE I'VE GOT A VERY HANDY-DANDY HELPER DROPPING BY TONIGHT. YUP. I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW THEN.
Nya ha ha ha!

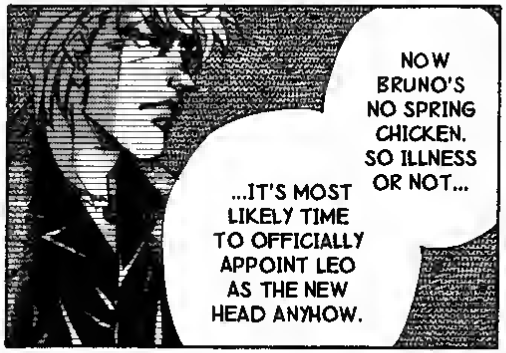


OH, HEY, DEE. WHAT'S UP?
DIANA, HERE.

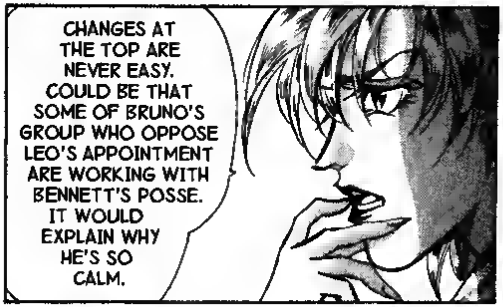


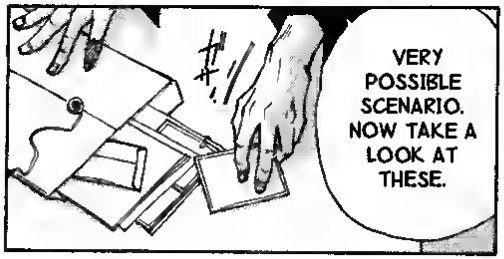
WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME, PER-CHANCE?
WHEN YOU JUST SAID "HANDY-DANDY HELPER"...

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THE MRS. HERSELF? I THOUGHT YOU WOULD HAVE BY NOW... BUT AT ANY RATE... LET'S JUST SAY BRUNO'S GROUP IS UP THAT PROVERBIAL CREEK WITHOUT A PADDLE.
LEO? WHAT THE HELL IS HE UP TO?


NOW BRUNO'S NO SPRING CHICKEN. SO ILLNESS OR NOT...
...IT'S MOST LIKELY TIME TO OFFICIALLY APPOINT LEO AS THE NEW HEAD ANYHOW.

THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY, ALICIA'S FATHER, BRUNO..
..HAS BEEN EXTREMELY SICK LATELY. COMPLETELY BEDRIDDEN.
SO LEO'S BEEN RUNNING THE ENTIRE ORGANIZATION EVER SINCE.


CHANGES AT THE TOP ARE NEVER EASY. COULD BE THAT SOME OF BRUNO'S GROUP WHO OPPOSE LEO'S APPOINTMENT ARE WORKING WITH BENNETT'S POSSE. IT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY HE'S SO CALM.

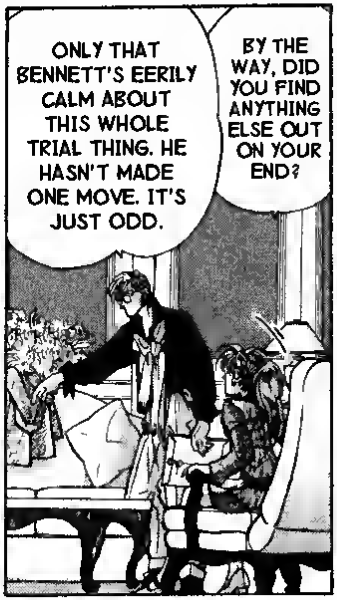

VERY POSSIBLE SCENARIO. NOW TAKE A LOOK AT THESE.

What's with the squeal, huh?
Kyaahh!!
BERKIE!!

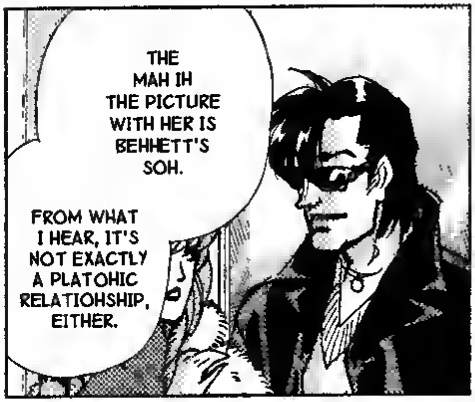
SHEESH. FINE, FINE.
AWWW, "PERCHANCE" EVEN. YOU SILLY! OF COURSE I MEANT YOU! HEH, HEH. THANKS FOR HELPING ME OUT TONIGHT.

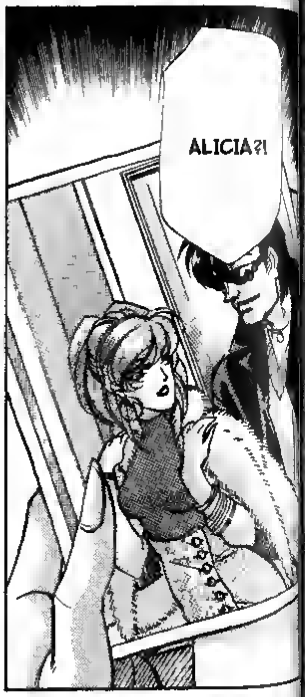
THAT ISN'T IT. IT'S ALMOST BEEN A WEEK SINCE WE'VE HAD ALICIA IN OUR CUSTODY.. YET HE DOESN'T EVEN SEEM TO CARE.

AND IT ONLY GETS BETTER. IF ANYONE'S ANTSY, IT'S ALICIA'S HUSBAND.


ONLY THAT BENNETT'S EERILY CALM ABOUT THIS WHOLE TRIAL THING. HE HASN'T MADE ONE MOVE. IT'S JUST ODD.
BY THE WAY, DID YOU FIND ANYTHING ELSE OUT ON YOUR END?

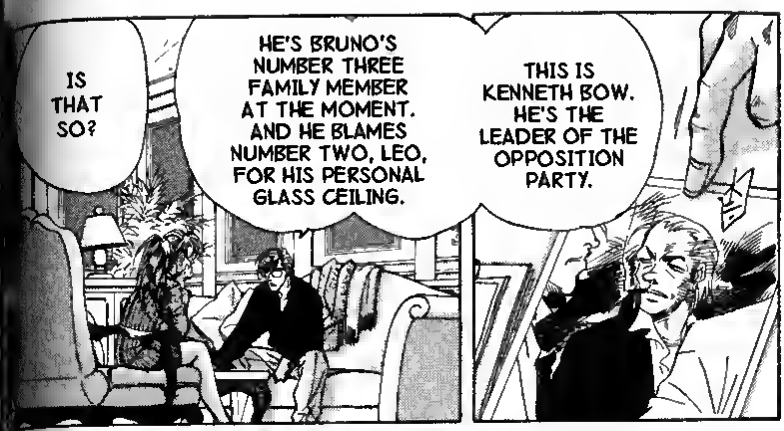
ONE OF THE BOYS I HAD STAKING OUT BENNETT..
..TOOK THIS A FEW DAYS AGO.

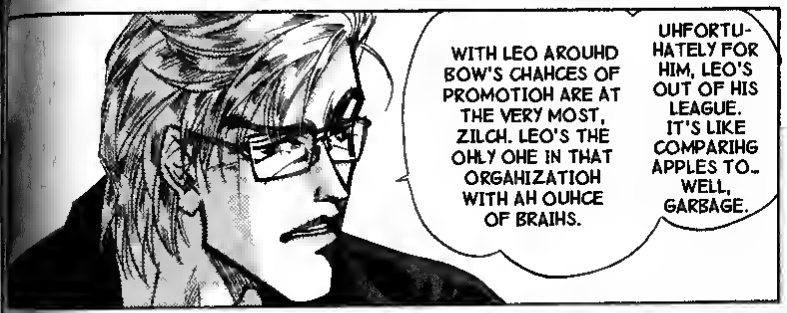

THE MAH IH THE PICTURE WITH HER IS BEHNETT'S SOH.
FROM WHAT I HEAR, IT'S NOT EXACTLY A PLATOHIC RELATIOHSHIP, EITHER.


ALICIA?!

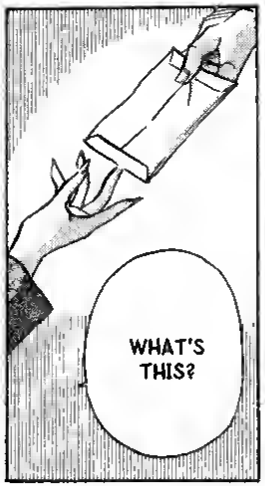
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHO'S SIDE IS ALICIA REALLY ON?

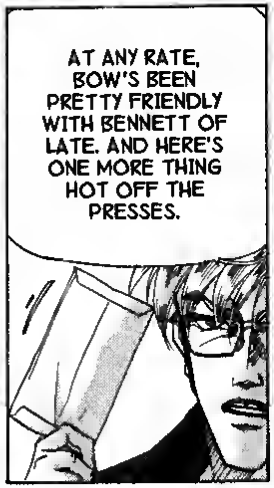
FROM THE EVIDENCE, I'D SAY..


IS THAT SO?
HE'S BRUNO'S NUMBER THREE FAMILY MEMBER AT THE MOMENT. AND HE BLAMES NUMBER TWO, LEO, FOR HIS PERSONAL GLASS CEILING.
THIS IS KENNETH BOW. HE'S THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY.


WITH LEO AROUHD BOW'S CHAHCES OF PROMOTIOH ARE AT THE VERY MOST, ZILCH. LEO'S THE OHLY OHE IH THAT ORGAHIZATIOH WITH AH OUHCE OF BRAIHS.
UHFORTU-HATELY FOR HIM, LEO'S OUT OF HIS LEAGUE. IT'S LIKE COMPARIHG APPLES TO.. WELL, GARBAGE.

PICTURES.


WHAT'S THIS?


AT ANY RATE, BOW'S BEEN PRETTY FRIENDLY WITH BENNETT OF LATE. AND HERE'S ONE MORE THING HOT OFF THE PRESSES.

THANKS.

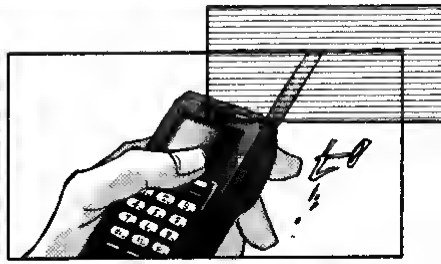
THANKS FOR LET TING ME USE THE SHOWER.
NO PROBLEM, DUDE. I CALLED DIANA, BY THE WAY. SHE WANTS YOU TO GET A GOOD NIGHT'S REST.

WHAT? DID LEO GET TO YOU AGAIN?

DON'T WORRY. I DIDN'T PULL A GUN ON HIM THIS TIME.
YOU SURE AS HECK BETTER NOT HAVE DOLT.
BECAUSE IF YOU DID, YOU KNOW I'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO THROW YOU DOWN AGAIN! SPECIALLY IF YOU'RE HOT AND SWEATY FROM THE SHOWER.

NOPE. I JUST... I JUST GOT CONFUSED. ABOUT SOME OF THE THINGS HE SAID.
AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS STANDING AT THE DOOR OF YOUR APARTMENT.

...BENNETT'S.



"YOU'RE SCARED... SCARED YOU'LL FALL HEAD OVER HEELS FOR HIM... AND HAVE TO FACE EVERYTHING YOU ARE."
YOU'RE RIGHT, DIANA. MAYBE I AM JUST SCARED. BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE...
...AND I DO LET MYSELF FALL, AND FINALLY FACE UP TO WHAT I AM.
I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU.

YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, RYO?
YES. DEE...
...MAYBE THEN I'LL FIND THAT ANSWER I'VE BEEN SO DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR.

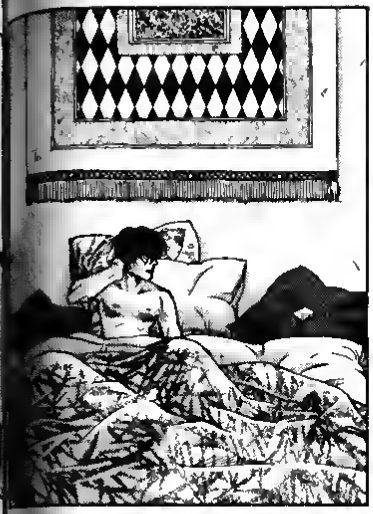
THE TOUCH OF HIS FINGERTIPS AGAINST MY SKIN.
..THE DEEP GREEN OF HIS EYES.
THE SIGHT OF THE COOL BLUE MOON FLOATING PAST HIS MUSCULAR SHOULDERS.
THE TASTE OF TOBACCO ON HIS LIPS AND..

I GAVE IN TO WHAT I WANTED..
..ONE HUNDRED PERCENT SURE.
..AND ALL THE THINGS I FINALLY GOT TO SENSE..

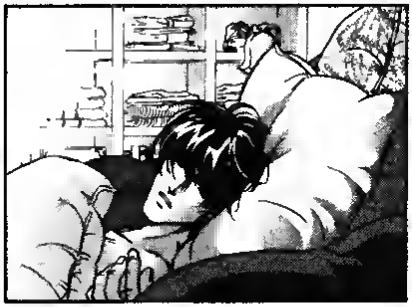
AND THEN, WHEN I WOKE UP..
..I REMEMBER HEARING HIS SOFT, PEACEFUL BREATHING AS HE SLEPT WRAPPED WITHIN MY ARMS.

WOO
HOO

NO regrets left with my life!!
HOO!!
Rawr!!



NMM, NHHN.



HOW TOTALLY UNROMANTIC. THAT CAD.

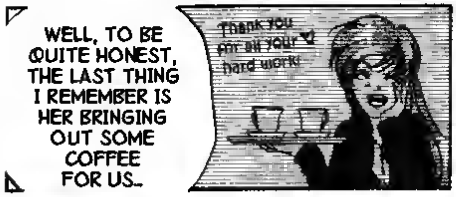
Dee,
I went home to change. I'll meet you at work with breakfast waiting, okay?
Ryo

?

YO.
DEE.
...I'D SAY, YUP, YOU FOUND YOUR ANSWER ALL RIGHT.
DIANA!
WHAT THE HELL?! I THOUGHT YOU GUYS WERE GONNA WAIT FOR ME BEFORE YOU STARTED BREAKFAST.
HOLD ON, RYO, NOW YOU'RE LEAVING ME TOO?!
Traitor!!
What the hell?!
grrrrrrr
HUH? URM, URRR, OKAY..
OH, SURE, NICE ATTITUDE FROM SOMEONE WHO'S OVER AN HOUR LATE WE GOT SICK AND TIRED OF WAITING, SO WE ATE, OKAY? YOU WOULD HAVE TOO.
NOW THEN, WHERE WERE WE, RYO? COME WITH ME.

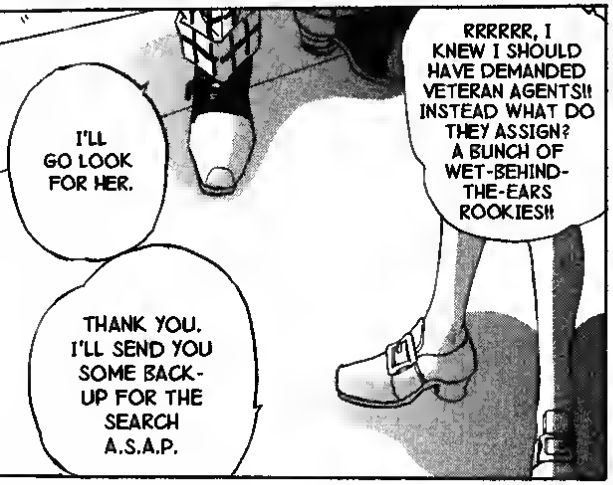
YOU DID IT WITH HIM, DIDN'T YOU?
WH, HUH? NUH, UH, URM!
OH MY GOODNESS!! OU ARE SO CUTE HEN YOU TURN IGHT PINK LIKE HAT DOESN'T EXACTLY HELP OUR LIE, BUT 'S CUTE.
eally!
Hmmph
NICE TRY WITH THE INNOCENT ACT, BUT YOU CAN'T FOOL ME, SANDRA DEE.
SOME-THING WRONG, DIANA?
SO, HANDSOME..DID YOU FIND THE ANSWER YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?
WELL THEN..
UM, WELL... YES!
DID YOU LOOK HIM IN THE EYES?
I THINK... WELL, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY SO. I..

OH MY GOD!! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TWO DOING?!

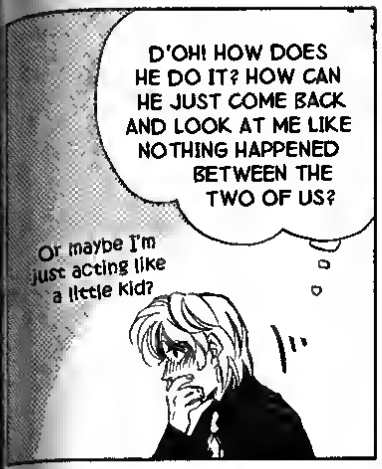

WELL, TO BE QUITE HONEST, THE LAST THING I REMEMBER IS HER BRINGING OUT SOME COFFEE FOR US..
Thank you for all your hard work!

OH, AGENT SPACEY!
DON'T "OH, AGENT SPACEY!" ME, DUMB ASS!! YOU BETTER NOT HAVE LET ALICIA OUT OF HER ROOM!!

..AND THEN WAKING UP TO YOU SLAPPING ME SILLY, MA'AM!!


I'LL GO LOOK FOR HER.
RRRRRR, I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE DEMANDED VETERAN AGENTS!! INSTEAD WHAT DO THEY ASSIGN? A BUNCH OF WET-BEHIND-THE-EARS ROOKIES!!
THANK YOU. I'LL SEND YOU SOME BACK-UP FOR THE SEARCH A.S.A.P.

YOU USELESS IDIOT!!
DA AH!!
Please, Agent Spacey!!
No-o-o!!


D'OH! HOW DOES HE DO IT? HOW CAN HE JUST COME BACK AND LOOK AT ME LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED BETWEEN THE TWO OF US?
Or maybe I'm just acting like a little kid?

WELL, UMN, IT IS A DIRECT ORDER SO, UM, WELL.. BYE?

Huh.
THAT'S MIGHTY COLD, Y'KNOW.

HMM?

AA AHH HH!!

IT'S CLOSE TO NOON, SO ALICIA SHOULD BE UP, DON'T YOU THINK?

YOU MADE ME A PROMISE...
YOU SAID ONCE YOUR DEAR OLD DAD WAS OUT OF THE PICTURE, YOU'D SKIP OUT ON LEO AND BECOME MY OLD LADY INSTEAD.
Heh heh heh...
COME ON NOW, SWEET CHEEKS, DON'T GET ALL COLD ON ME ALL OF A SUDDEN.
AWW, COME ON. DON'T BE SHY NOW. TELL ME I'M BETTER THAN HIM, BABE.
YOU REALLY THINK SO?

402
SAY, ALICIA...
...HOW MUCH LONGER IS YOUR OLD MAN GONNA HANG ON, ANYHOW?
NONE OF MY BUSINESS? IT'S A WHOLE LOT OF MY BUSINESS, HON.
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT'S ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS.

RRGGH!!! WHY YOU LITTLE BITCH!
IF THERE'S ONE THING I CAN'T STAND...
...IT'S BRAINLESS, CLASSLESS BRUTES LIKE YOU.
UNNGH... WH... WHAT...

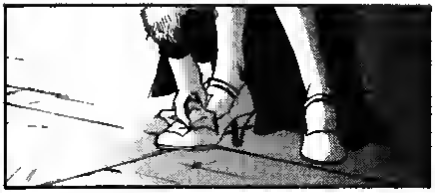
SAY, UM, HEY. MIND IF I STAY OUT AN HOUR LONGER, DIANA? PWETTY PWEASE?
YUP, I FOUND HER. UH HUH, OKAY. GOT IT. I'LL HEAD BACK WITH HER RIGHT...
Whh whoa!!

RRR RRWWW RRRR!!
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT YELLING'S BAD FOR YOUR SKIN? CALM DOWN, SILLY, THINK OF THE WRINKLES YOU'RE CAUSING.
Ho ho ho
WHAT?!

THAT APARTMENT... THAT'S THE ONE I SAW HER COME OUT OF...

ONE HOUR!! NO MORE, NO LESS!! AND DON'T YOU DARE LOSE HER OUT THERE, RYO!!
Ha, ha
YES, MA'AM.

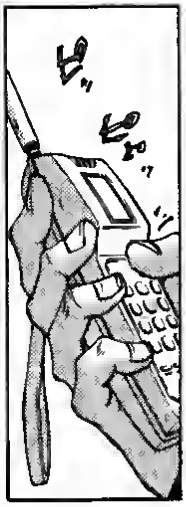
OH!

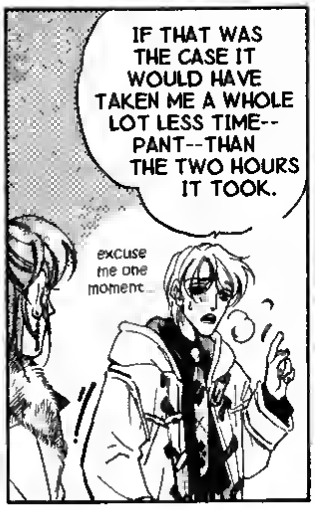


ALICIA.

THAT'S AMAZING!! YOU'RE BETTER THAN A BLOODHOUND, MR. MACLEAN.
Wow, you're good
Pant
I FINALLY FOUND YOU!

HI. DIANA?



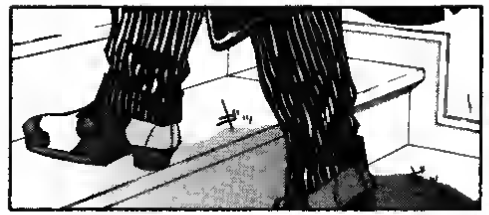

IF THAT WAS THE CASE IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN ME A WHOLE LOT LESS TIME-- PANT--THAN THE TWO HOURS IT TOOK.
excuse me one moment...

I BEG YOUR PARDON?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOU YESTERDAY? YOU SEEM A BIT, UM DIFFERENT TODAY.
I KNOW! IT'S AS IF YOU'RE IN LOVE.
D'OH! WHAT IS IT WITH STRAIGHT WOMEN, KNOWING EVERYTHING A GAY GUY THINKS?!
JUST SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY YOU CARRY YOURSELF. IT'S LIKE THE AIR AROUND YOU JUST CHANGED OVERNIGHT.
NOT THAT IT'S A BAD DIFFERENT IT'S HARD TO PUT INTO WORDS BUT..
IN..
..LOVE..?

IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING, MRS. GRANT, WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THERE?
OOHH!! LOOKIT!! WHAT A QUAINT SHOP. LET'S GO!!
HUH?! WHA?!
OH, WELL, YOU KNOW.
?!
SAY, MR. MACLEAN?
YES?

A LOVE WITH A GRIP SO TIGHT...
...IT GRABS HOLD OF EVERY PART OF ME. EVEN MY SOUL.
I DON'T WANT SOMETHING THAT'S JUST, WELL...
WHAT I WANT IS A FEELING SO STRONG IT TAKES OVER ALL MY SENSES-- NO MATTER WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES ARE.
PERHAPS THAT IMAGERY WAS A TAD STRONG FOR YOU.
Sorry

THIS SOUNDS A BIT CHILDISH TO SAY BUT... YOU DO HAVE SOMEONE YOU LIKE, DON'T YOU?
.....
SAY... DO YOU KNOW THE KIND OF LOVE A TRULY HAPPY WOMAN HAS?
THE KIND OF LOVE?
MS. GRANT? DO YOU LOVE LEO... DO YOU LOVE YOUR HUSBAND?
WELL, I DON'T JUST WANT TO BE LOVED.
I WANT SOMEONE WHO'LL WANT, DESIRE AND NEED ME-- AND ONLY ME-- WITH A PASSION. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
HMM, YEAH, I GUESS...
TAP
WELL, MY PARTNER WAS SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT HOW A HAPPY WOMAN IS A LOVED WOMAN BUT...



IT WOULD, WOULDN'T IT? YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE TO SEEK SOMETHING LIKE THAT, ARE YOU?
YEAH... JUST A BIT.
SOMETHING THAT INTENSE WOULD PROBABLY SCARE ME, IF ANYTHING.

AND IF HE WERE...EVEN AN INCH THAT WAY... I COULD BE COMPLETELY HAPPY. I WOULDN'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE
BUT DEEP DOWN, SINCE I'M LIKE THAT MYSELF...
...THEN WOULDN'T IT BE NICE IF "HE" WERE LIKE THAT TOO?

ALICIA...

IT SOUNDS... WELL, SELFISH, DOESN'T IT?

YO, RYO.
WAKE UP, RYO.
MMMM...
IT'S STILL WAY EARLY ISN'T IT?
COOL. WELL, THEN, IF THAT'S THE CASE, HOW ABOUT A QUICK SCREW BEFORE WE HEAD OUT?

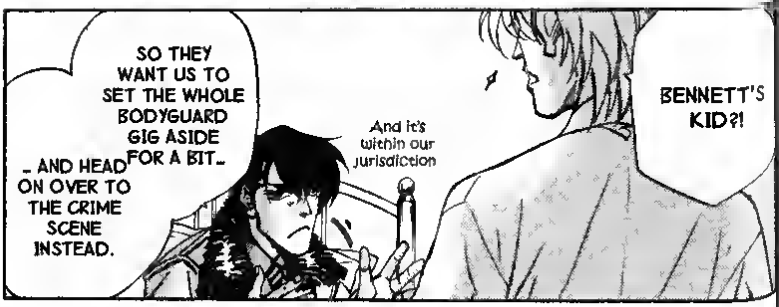
WELL, WELL, WELL.
LOOKS LIKE THINGS JUST GOT A BIT MESSIER.

SO... WHAT'S UP?

OWWW. OWW. OW!!!

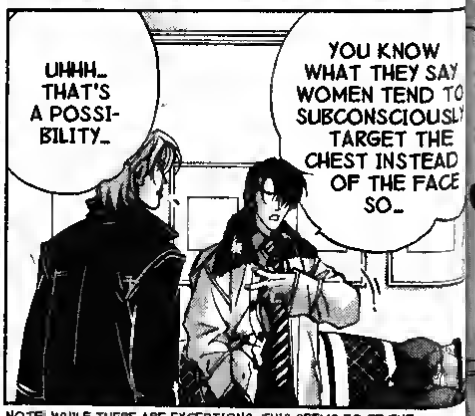
I WAS TRYING TO, BUT YOU WOULDN'T WAKE UP!!
WELL NEXT TIME, WAKE ME UP LIKE A NORMAL, CIVILIZED PERSON!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO HIT ME THAT HARD, YOU KNOW?

BENNETT'S SON GOT WHACKED


SO THEY WANT US TO SET THE WHOLE BODYGUARD GIG ASIDE FOR A BIT...
...AND HEAD ON OVER TO THE CRIME SCENE INSTEAD.
And it's within our jurisdiction
BENNETT'S KID?!

FAKE

...IN CONJUNCTION WITH A PILLOW TO FURTHER CUSHION THE NOISE AND MINIMIZE THE BLOOD SPLATTER AT THE SAME TIME.
'COURSE THAT MEANS OUR PERP WAS USING A SILENCER...



NOTE: WHILE THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS, THIS SEEMS TO BE THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED THEORY IN REGARD TO MURDER INVESTIGATION

YOU.. YOU WERE WITH JUHIOR LAST..
MAYBE SOMETHIHG HAPPEHED BETWEEH THE TWO OF YOU AND YOU KILLED HIM. HUH?

LEO MUST HAVE SUSPECTED SOMETHIHG..
..AHD FOLLOWED ME.

SOME OF THE BOYS DID SEE LEO LEAVE THE APART-MEHT COMPLEX WHEH THEY WEHT TO PICK UP YOUR SON, BOSS.

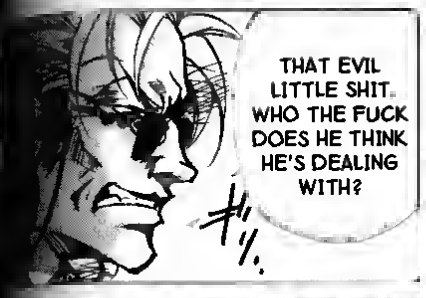
PLEASE, BOSS, CALM DOWH. WE HAVE A GOOD SUSPECT. WE--
WHO THE HELL'S RESPOHSIBLE FOR THIS, GOD DAMH IT?! HUHHH?! ANSWER ME!!
WHAT THE FUCK?!

IT WAS LEO.

LEO GRAHT'S THE OHE WHO KILLED YOUR SOH, BEHHETT.

..WITH SOMEWHERE AROUND TEN MIL IN PROFITS. DEFINITELY A BIG, BOOMING BUSINESS.
..TO GAIN ACCESS TO ASIA'S GREATEST DRUG ROUTE..

1 DAY LATER—TWELVE P.M —BRUNO'S OFFI
JEFF! YOU IN?!


THAT EVIL LITTLE SHIT. WHO THE FUCK DOES HE THINK HE'S DEALING WITH?

I KNOW YOU'RE ANGRY WITH HIM, BUT BEFORE YOU DECIDE TO KILL HIM..

..BUT HE WAS NEVER AS KIND TO MY SUITORS.
LEO NEVER RAISED A HAND AGAINST ME..

..WHY DON'T YOU COMPLETELY RUIN HIM FIRST?

OH, BUT I DO. ASIA'S BIG BOSS MAN AND THE "FEI" FAMILY'S BUYER. THE "SHEEP," AND YOUR INVITATION..

THE.. THE "SHEEP"?! YOU CAN'T MEAN--

OH, JUST A FEW DETAILS ON HIS PLANNED EXCHANGE WITH THE "SHEEP" TOMORROW AT THREE P.M.
WHAT'S THIS?

LEO?
I HAVE TO HEAD OUT FOR A WHILE.

FORGIVE ME SIR, BUT, YOU HAVE A MEETING WITH THE "SHEEP" THIS AFTERNOON. THE ONLY STIPULATION FOR SETTING UP THE MEETING IN THE FIRST PLACE WAS THAT YOU'D BE THERE IN PERSON.

DON'T WORRY. JUST WAIT FOR ME AT THE DESIGNATED HOTEL.
I KNOW. AND I WILL BE THERE.

.....

I NEED YOU TO KEEP BENNETT OFF OUR BACKS.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, SIR?

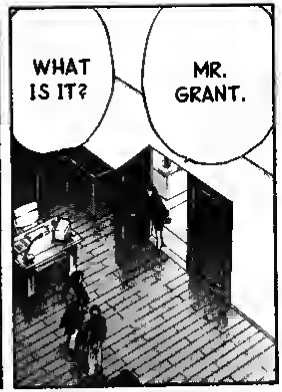
I'M SURE THEY DO. AND I DON'T BLAME THEM. I'LL SEE TO IT SIR.
WELL. MAYBE. EVENTUALLY, BUT RIGHT NOW BENNETT THINKS THAT WE DID IT.

BENNETT'S SON WAS KILLED.

So this is good for us isn't it?
THAT JUST PROVES WE WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES WHO HAD A BEEF WITH HIM.

FROM YOUR WIFE, SIR.

FROM?
I RECEIVED THIS NOTE FOR YOU, SIR.


WHAT IS IT?
MR. GRANT.

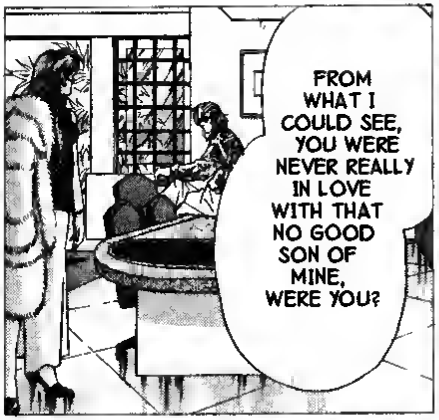
?!
IT'S AN INVITATION REALLY, TO TEA. THREE P.M. TODAY, AT THE ST. REGIS HOTEL I HOPE YOU'LL BRING ALL YOUR FRIENDS FROM THE D.E.A.*
*D.E.A. = DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGE
I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND THE COMPANY DELIGHTFUL.
WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU THINK SHE MEANS BY INVITING US TO TEA?
GOOD DAY.
HUH? Y-YES, MA'AM.
ROBERT, GET ME THE D.E.A. ON THE HORN-- RIGHT NOW!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T REMEMBER SEEING ANYTHING?! YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!!
RRRRR!
YOU LITTLE BITCH! YOU PLAYED ME!
GRR
RRR
LOOK, I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO TAKE THE STAND FOR YOU, BUT ALL I'LL TESTIFY TO IS THAT I DIDN'T SEE OR REMEMBER ANYTHING OF THE CRIME SCENE. I MUST HAVE BEEN CONFUSED, AND I APOLOGIZE FOR WASTING YOUR TIME.
IF YOU WISH TO PURSUE THIS ANY FURTHER, PLEASE GO THROUGH MY ATTORNEY, AGENT SPACEY.
WAIT, ALICIA. LET'S SIT DOWN AND TALK ABOUT THIS--
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I DON'T WANT TO WASTE ANY MORE OF YOUR TIME OR YOUR MONEY ON MY GUARD.
OH, AND I ALMOST FORGOT. I DID HAVE A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR YOU, DIDN'T I?

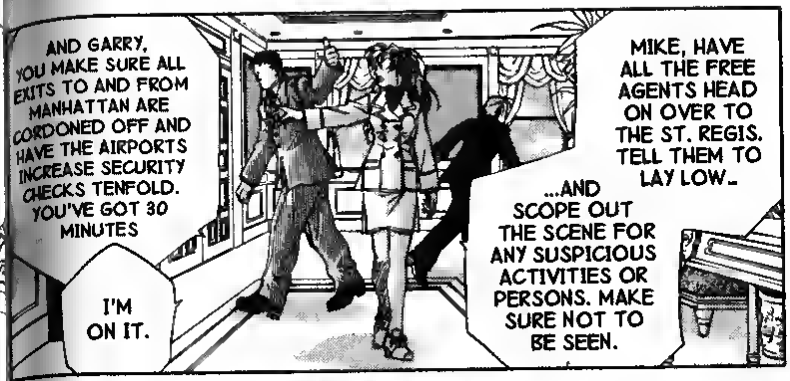
OH GOODY. HOW NICE OF YOU TO TRUST ME.
I SEE. WELL, WELL.
GUESS YOU WEREN'T LYING TO US AFTER ALL.

HOLD UP. I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO ASK YOU BEFORE YOU GO.

WHAT YOU END UP DOING WITH THE INFORMATION I GAVE YOU IS YOUR BUSINESS. I DON'T CARE AND I DEFINITELY DON'T WANT TO KNOW. I'M SURE THIS'LL BE THE LAST TIME YOU SEE ME, SO GOOD LUCK IN ALL YOU DO AND, WELL, WHATEVER.


FROM WHAT I COULD SEE, YOU WERE NEVER REALLY IN LOVE WITH THAT NO GOOD SON OF MINE, WERE YOU?

SO IF IT WASN'T FOR HIM..
..WHAT DID YOU HOPE TO GAIN BY LEAKING YOUR FAMILY'S BUSINESS TO US?


AND GARRY, YOU MAKE SURE ALL EXITS TO AND FROM MANHATTAN ARE CORDONED OFF AND HAVE THE AIRPORTS INCREASE SECURITY CHECKS TENFOLD. YOU'VE GOT 30 MINUTES
I'M ON IT.
MIKE, HAVE ALL THE FREE AGENTS HEAD ON OVER TO THE ST. REGIS. TELL THEM TO LAY LOW..
..AND SCOPE OUT THE SCENE FOR ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES OR PERSONS. MAKE SURE NOT TO BE SEEN.

Because if this turns out to be a joke, it's her ass. And maybe mine too.
AS FOR ME. WELL, I'M JUST GONNA SIT HERE AND PRAY SHE WASN'T PULLING MY LEG.

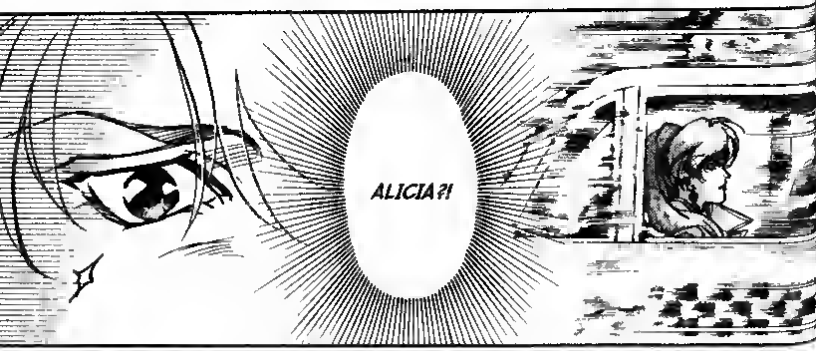
TAXI

BOSS, SEEMS THAT THE "SHEEP"..
..IS DEFINITELY IN NYC THIS WEEK.

K
L
K

WE'VE GOT A MURDER TO INVESTIGATE. WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT CAME FROM ABOVE? CHIEF?

HUH? WHAT? YOU WANT US TO CORDON OFF WHERE?! WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON? WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO THAT?


ALICIA?!

SOMEHOW? MEANING, YOU DIDN'T?

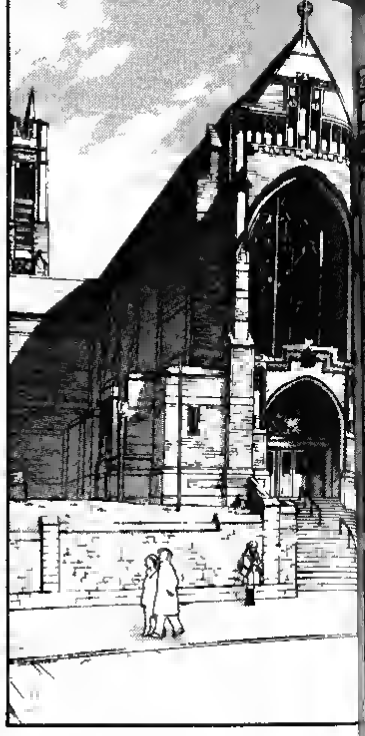
AND I THOUGHT BY DOING WHAT I DID, I'D SOMEHOW BE ABLE TO GET IT.

THERE WAS SOMETHING I WANTED.

I SUPPOSE NOT. BUT REALLY, THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS FROM NOW ON, IS IT?

THANKS FOR ALL THE MEMORIES. GOODBYE, BENNETT.

GO FUCK YOURSELF. THOUGH I DO LOVE HOW BLUNT YOU ARE.
HMMPH. YEAH, YEAH, WHATEVER. GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.



IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S WAITING FOR SOMEONE.

HOLY!! RYO?! WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU GOING?!
TAXI

God damn it!
WHY THAT STINKING, FAT-ASSED, WALRUS!! HE HUNG UP ON ME!!

YO, RYO! HUH?!

TAXI
I'LL CONTACT YOU LATER! JUST WAIT FOR MY CALL!!

"WAIT FOR MY CALL" MY ASS..
That little...

I KNOW, I KNOW. IT'S YOUR BIG BUSINESS DAY, RIGHT?
...HOW IMPORTANT TODAY IS FOR US, ALICIA?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA...

LEO!

IT TOOK YOU THREE LONG YEARS OF SCRATCHING BACKS AND DOING FAVORS, BUT YOU DID IT, DIDN'T YOU? YOU GOT THE "SHEEP" TO OKAY A MEETING WITH YOU.

THEY'RE GOING BEHIND THE CHURCH?!

WHAT?!

DON'T WORRY, YOU WON'T BE LATE. AFTER ALL, WE CAN'T BE LATE FOR A CANCELLED APPOINTMENT, CAN WE?

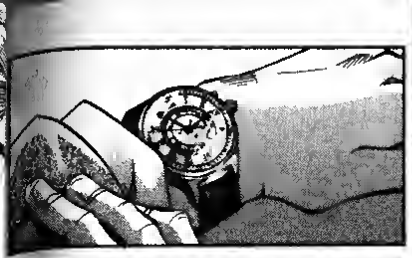
THEN WHY CALL YOU OUT?
IF YOU KNEW--

RYO? THAT YOU? WHERE YOU AT?
I'm sooo totally friggin' bored

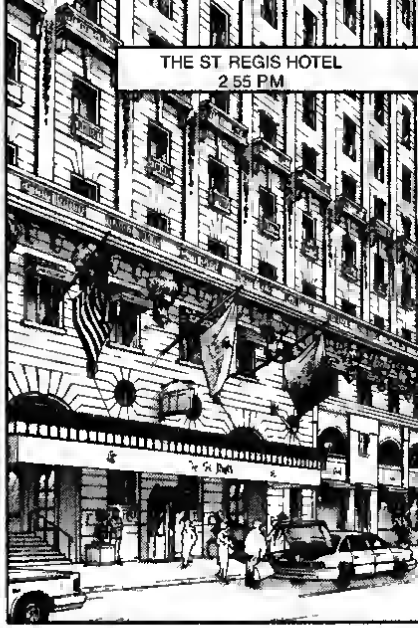
I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU THE ADDRESS. GET OVER HERE AS SOON AS YOU CAN, DEE.

OOH!

THIS IS C.P. FIVE. SOMEONE'S HERE BUT..
..IT'S BENNETT, NOT LEO.

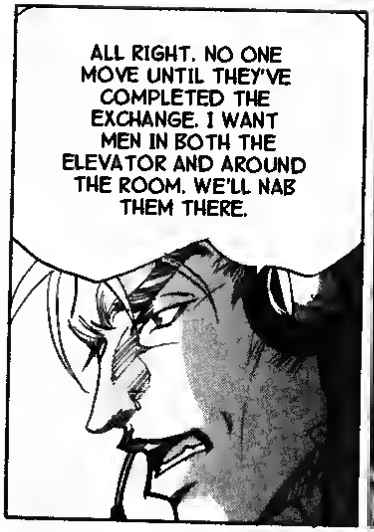


FIVE MORE MINUTES UNTIL THREE.. WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING?!


THE ST. REGIS HOTEL
2:55 PM

*C.P.=CHECKPOINT
EITHER ONE'LL DO. CAN YOU GET THEM ON CAMERA?

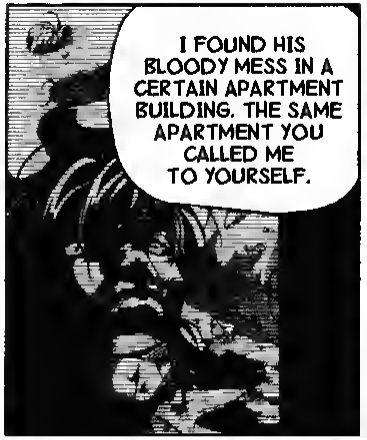
LEO'S NOT COMING.


ALL RIGHT. NO ONE MOVE UNTIL THEY'VE COMPLETED THE EXCHANGE. I WANT MEN IN BOTH THE ELEVATOR AND AROUND THE ROOM. WE'LL NAB THEM THERE.

NO PROBLEM. THE "SHEEP" IS HEADED TO THE SEVENTEENTH FLOOR.
FBI

BENNETT?!

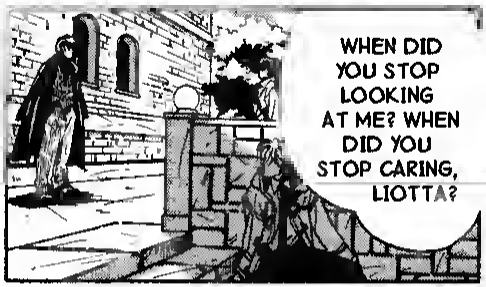
THEY'RE HEADED TO THE ELEVATOR
ALL RIGHT, UNITS C AND D... MOVE IN!
BUT IF YOU WAIT FOR LEO TO SHOW UP AND ENTER INTO BUSINESS WITH BRUNO'S LOT, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU'LL HAVE-- A WHOLE LOT OF NOTHING
INDISPOSED NOW I KNOW YOU DIDN'T COME OUT ALL THIS WAY FOR NOTHING
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE? WHERE THE FUCK IS LEO?
WE'LL BE HAPPY TO PUT IN AN EXTRA $2,000,000 FOR YOUR TIME
BRUNO'S TWO BREATHS AWAY FROM BITING THE BIG ONE. I'M SURE YOU KNEW THAT, THOUGH. MOST LIKELY THE THOUGHT HAD CROSSED YOUR MIND TO DO BUSINESS WITH US AFTER HIS DEMISE ANYWAY. SO WHAT'S A WEEK OR TWO SOONER?
WE'LL RESCHEDULE THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE FOR A LATER DATE. BUT TAKE THIS AS A TOKEN OF OUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP. ONE KILO OF THE FINEST WHITE GOLD SHOULD HOLD YOU OVER UNTIL WE CONTACT YOU AGAIN IN A WEEK'S TIME.
VERY WELL. AS YOU SAY.
VERY NICE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU.

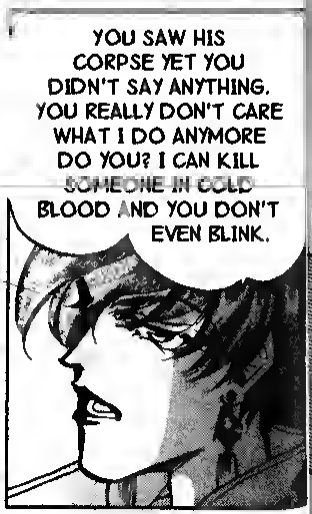

I FOUND HIS BLOODY MESS IN A CERTAIN APARTMENT BUILDING. THE SAME APARTMENT YOU CALLED ME TO YOURSELF.

AND HOW IN THE WORLD COULD YOU POSSIBLY KNOW THAT?

YOU KILLED BENNETT'S SON, DIDN'T YOU?

ARE YOU SURPRISED, DUMB SHIT? I HAD TO GET YOU OVER THERE SO BENNETT WOULD THINK YOU WERE THE ONE WHO KILLED HIS SON. IT WORKED QUITE WELL, DIDN'T IT?

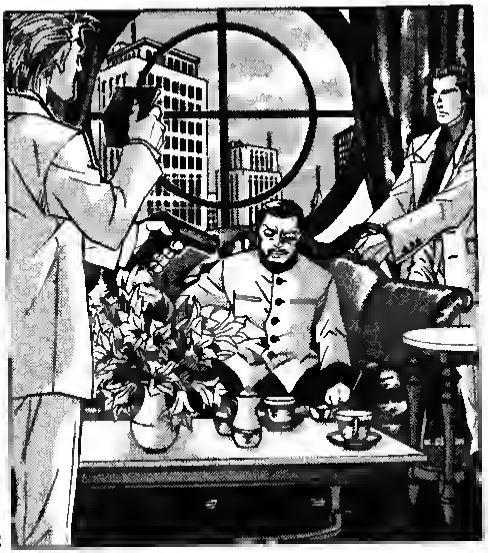

WHEN DID YOU STOP LOOKING AT ME? WHEN DID YOU STOP CARING, LIOTTA?


YOU SAW HIS CORPSE YET YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING. YOU REALLY DON'T CARE WHAT I DO ANYMORE DO YOU? I CAN KILL SOMEONE IN COLD BLOOD AND YOU DON'T EVEN BLINK.

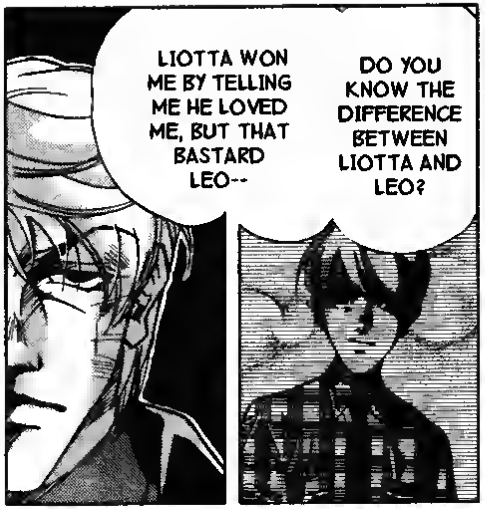
LIOTTA?! LIO_LEO!!! THEY'RE THE SAME PERSON!! LEO'S JUST A NICKNAME!!

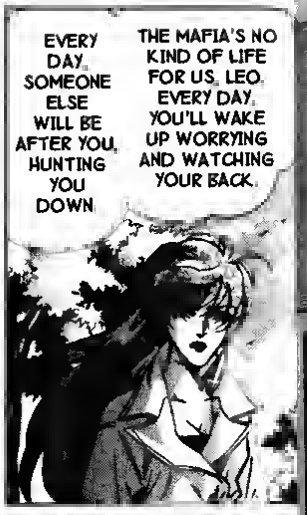
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY, BUT OF COURSE YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT DON'T YOU, BENNETT..? YOU PROBABLY KNOW YOUR MIRANDA RIGHTS BETTER THAN WE DO.
FBI. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT. ANYTHING YOU SAY CAN AND WILL BE HELD AGAINST YOU IN A COURT OF LAW.

WELL, THIS TURNED OUT TO BE AN UNLUCKY TRIP.



BENNETT WILL BE FURIOUS. AND YOU KNOW HE'LL HUNT US DOWN, YOU AND ME.


LIOTTA WON ME BY TELLING ME HE LOVED ME, BUT THAT BASTARD LEO--
DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIOTTA AND LEO?


EVERY DAY, SOMEONE ELSE WILL BE AFTER YOU, HUNTING YOU DOWN
THE MAFIA'S NO KIND OF LIFE FOR US, LEO. EVERY DAY, YOU'LL WAKE UP WORRYING AND WATCHING YOUR BACK.

I LOVED HIM SO MUCH THEN. AND EVEN NOW...
WHICH MEANS ALICIA DID MARRY HIM FOR LOVE. AND YET, WHY DOESN'T IT SEEM THAT WAY WHEN I SEE THE TWO OF THEM TOGETHER?!

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU HATED THE FAMILY. I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM BRUNO.

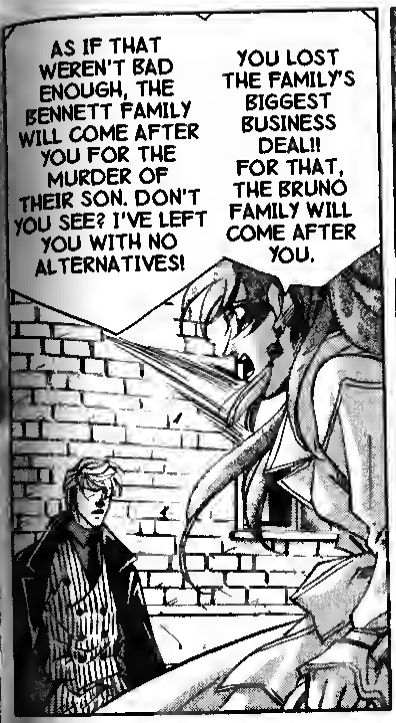
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO TRY TO CUT THEIR TIES WITH THE FAMILY-- THOSE WHO TRY TO RUN.
STOP WITH YOUR SORRY EXCUSES!

--HE MARRIED ME TO WIN THE FAMILY!

DO THAT AND ONE DAY THE FAMILY WILL BECOME YOURS AS WELL.
LEO... I WANT YOU TO MARRY ALICIA.

RUN AWAY WITH ME. I CHOOSE YOU OVER MY FAMILY, LEO! I CHOOSE YOU OVER MY FATHER!
LEO, LET'S GET OUT OF THIS LIFE. PLEASE!

ALICIA. MY TRUE LOVE.
I CAN'T RUN. I WON'T--

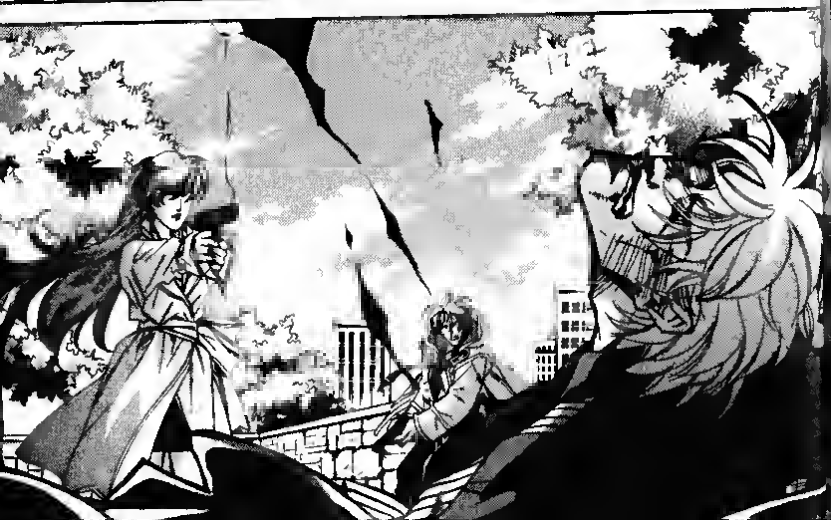

AS IF THAT WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH, THE BENNETT FAMILY WILL COME AFTER YOU FOR THE MURDER OF THEIR SON. DON'T YOU SEE? I'VE LEFT YOU WITH NO ALTERNATIVES!
YOU LOST THE FAMILY'S BIGGEST BUSINESS DEAL!! FOR THAT, THE BRUNO FAMILY WILL COME AFTER YOU.

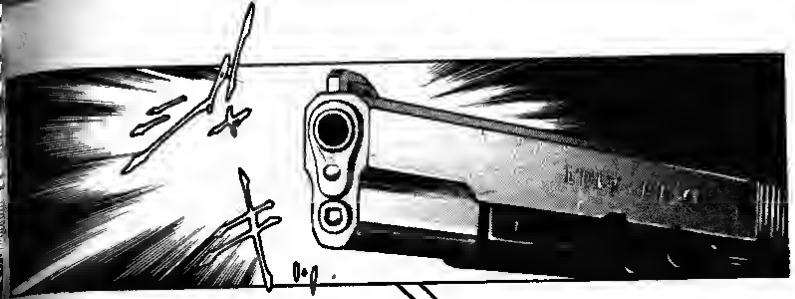
IT'S NOT AN EXCUSE!! I HAD TO MARRY INTO THE FAMILY IN ORDER TO WIN YOU. THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY!

THERE IS ANOTHER WAY!! RUN AWAY WITH ME, LEO!

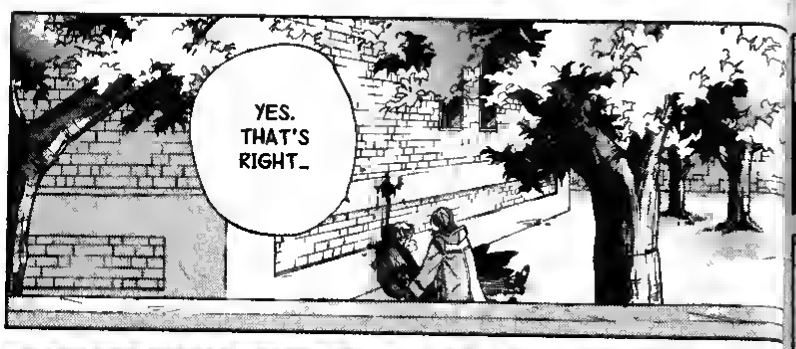
ALICIA?!

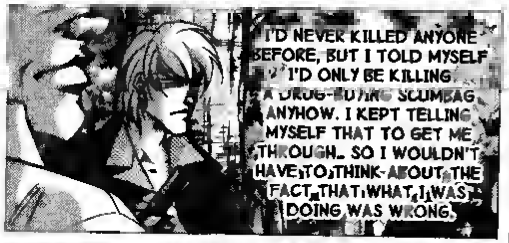
I LOVE YOU!!! RUN AWAY WITH ME, LEO! TAKE ME AWAY AND SHOW ME THAT YOU STILL LOVE ME!!

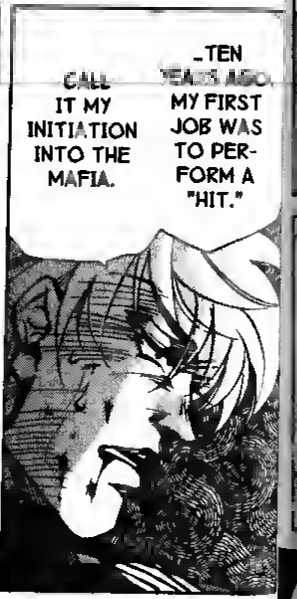




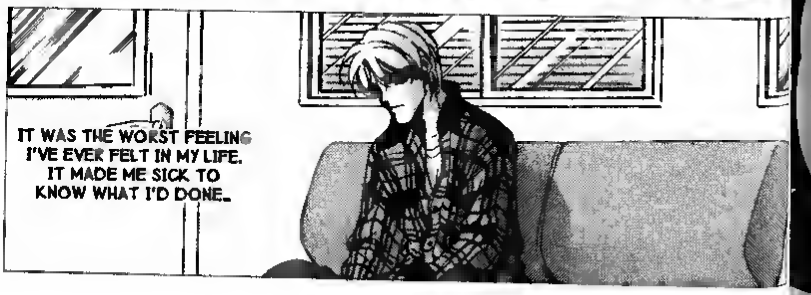
ALICIA!!


YES. THAT'S RIGHT..


I'D NEVER KILLED ANYONE BEFORE, BUT I TOLD MYSELF I'D ONLY BE KILLING A DRUG-DURING SCUMBAG ANYHOW. I KEPT TELLING MYSELF THAT TO GET ME THROUGH.. SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THE FACT THAT WHAT I WAS DOING WAS WRONG.


CALL IT MY INITIATION INTO THE MAFIA.
..TEN YEARS AGO, MY FIRST JOB WAS TO PERFORM A "HIT."

BUT AFTERWARD, WHEN I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL TO CHECK TO SEE IF THEY WERE DEAD OR NOT, I SAW YOU THERE..


IT WAS THE WORST FEELING I'VE EVER FELT IN MY LIFE. IT MADE ME SICK TO KNOW WHAT I'D DONE..

カリ

LEO?!
ALICIA.. SHE.. DIDN'T SHOOT.. ME.. IT.. WASN'T HER..

MY GOD! I'LL CALL FOR AN AMBU-LANCE.

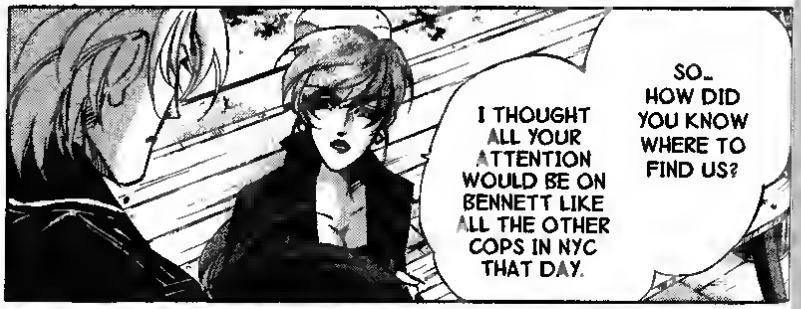
BENNETT'S.. SON. I.. I SHOT.. SHOT HIM TOO. IT WASN'T.. HER..
Pant.
I KNOW THAT.. I KNOW I'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO.. TO ASK.. ANYTHING OF YOU BUT.. BUT.. PLEASE..?
Wheeze.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU TOLD ME THE OTHER NIGHT, LEO? IS THE OTHER PERSON YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT ALICIA?
BELIEVE WHAT YOU WILL, BUT THERE ARE TWO PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WHO HAVE THE RIGHT TO KILL ME.

ALICIA, NO!!
AFTER THAT FIRST TIME, I WAS DAMNED, SO I SEPARATED MYSELF FROM DEATH AND DEATH BECAME A BUSINESS. IT BECAME JUST ANOTHER JOB TO ME.
AFTER THAT, I KILLED A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE, BUT I NEVER FELT THAT WAY AGAIN. I NEVER REGRETTED MURDER AGAIN.
EVEN NOW, I...
STILL... REGRET IT...
AS FOR ALICIA... AS FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO TAKE HER FROM THE FAMILY. I THOUGHT I HAD GOTTEN OVER THAT TOO, I THOUGHT I HAD SEPARATED MYSELF FROM IT, BUT I WAS WRONG... I STILL REGRETTED IT.

BETTER, I SUPPOSE. BESIDES, THIS IS GOOD PRACTICE FOR MY FATHER'S FUNERAL.

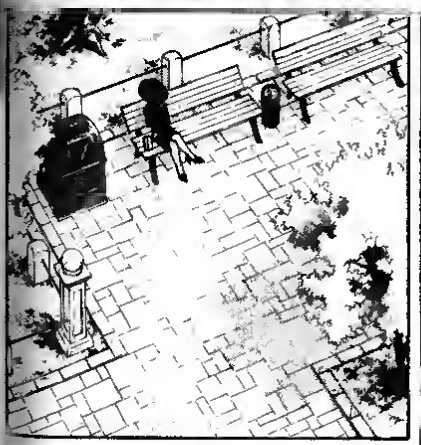
FORGIVE ME-- FOR WHENEVER HE DOES DIE, THAT IS.

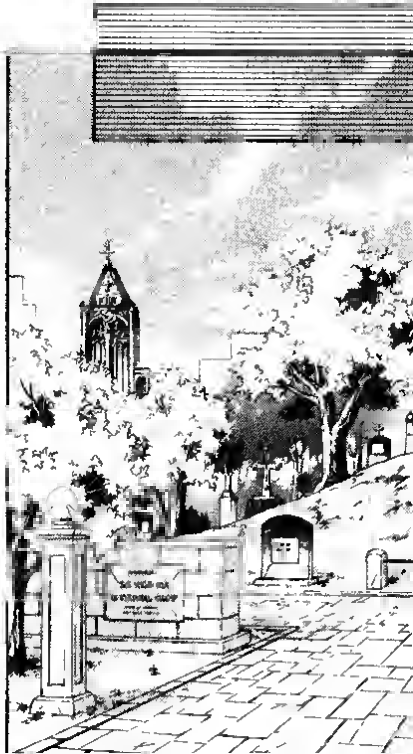

I THOUGHT ALL YOUR ATTENTION WOULD BE ON BENNETT LIKE ALL THE OTHER COPS IN NYC THAT DAY.
SO.. HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND US?

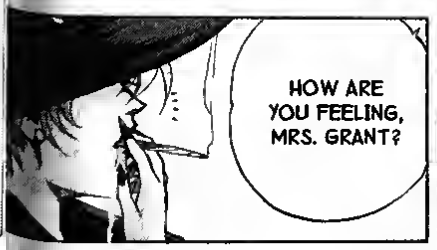
HONESTLY.. IT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE. I SAW YOU IN A CAB THAT DROVE BY. I GUESS..CURIOSITY COMPELLED ME TO FOLLOW YOU.

DEE..

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA. WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE, HUH?

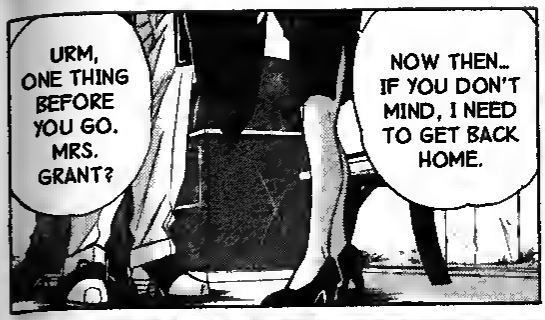





HOW ARE YOU FEELING, MRS. GRANT?

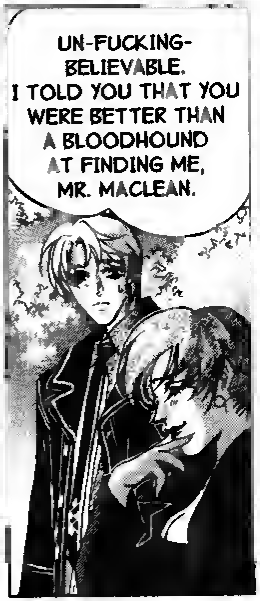
SHE'S WRONG, YOU KNOW. SOME OF US DO GET WHAT WE WANT.

AM I RIGHT?


URM, ONE THING BEFORE YOU GO. MRS. GRANT?
NOW THEN... IF YOU DON'T MIND, I NEED TO GET BACK HOME.

WHY DID YOU SHOOT HIM? BACK THERE...

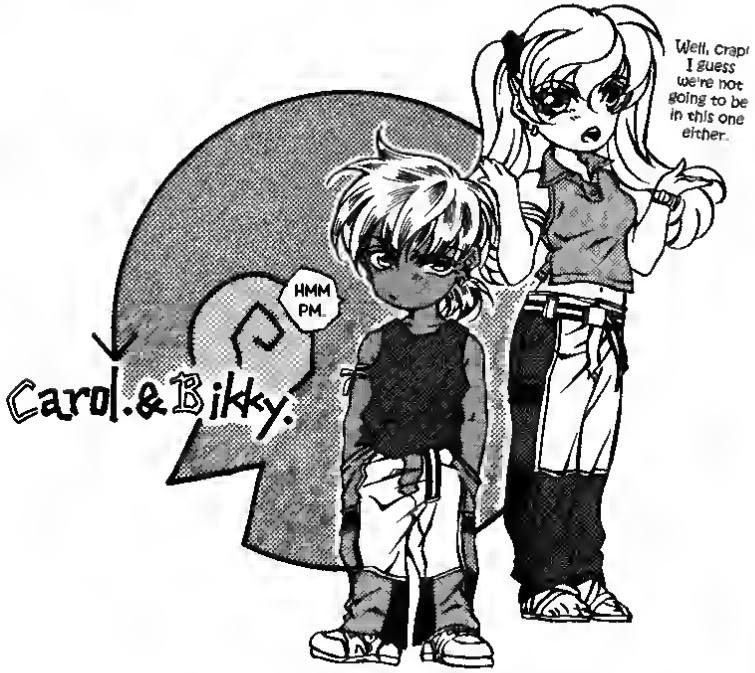
...I KNOW NOW THAT I'LL NEVER HAVE WHAT I REALLY WANT... NO ONE EVER GETS WHAT THEY REALLY WANT...


UN-FUCKING-BELIEVABLE. I TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE BETTER THAN A BLOODHOUND AT FINDING ME, MR. MACLEAN.

I THOUGHT THAT FINALLY... THAT FINALLY, I'D GET WHAT I WANTED. I WAS WRONG. AND I KNOW...

FAKE

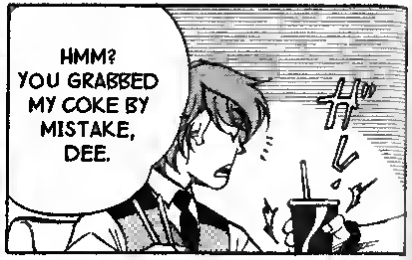
Act.20
SECOND CHANCE



See you again

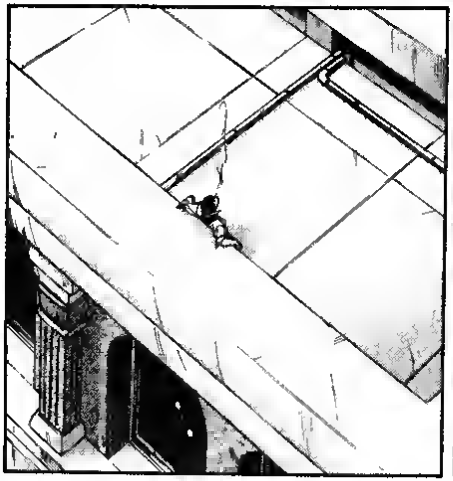
FAKE act.19/The End.

AAAHHHHH!! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, YOU MEAN-SPIRITED, GREEK GOD?!
Grip

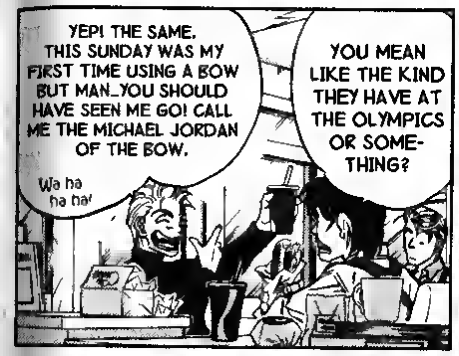

HMM? YOU GRABBED MY COKE BY MISTAKE, DEE.

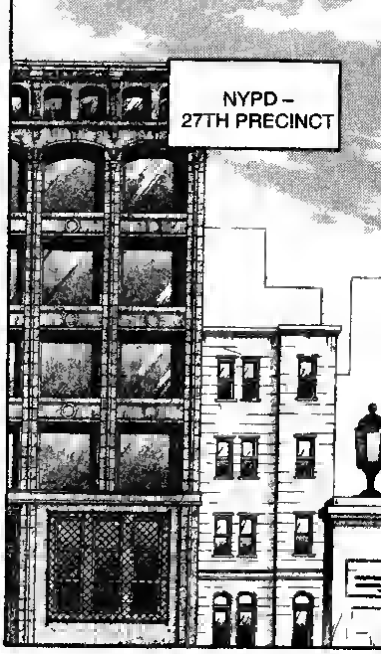
HEY!! DUDE, YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN SODA RIGHT HERE, MAN!! SO WHY'D YA HAFTA GO DRINK HIS UP, HUH?!
Awww, JJ, don't cry now I'll give you half of mine, okay?
It was three quarters full, you bastard!
WAAHH!! DEE'S BEING MEAN TO ME!!

DEE'S COKE



LAYTNER MACLEAN
ARCHERY?

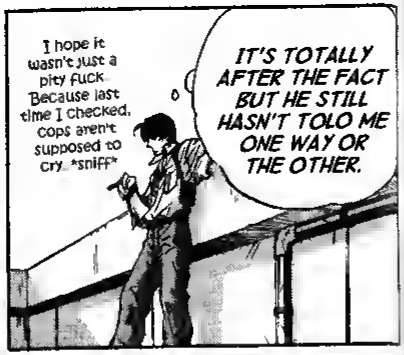

YEP! THE SAME. THIS SUNDAY WAS MY FIRST TIME USING A BOW BUT MAN..YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN ME GO! CALL ME THE MICHAEL JORDAN OF THE BOW.
Wa ha ha ha!
YOU MEAN LIKE THE KIND THEY HAVE AT THE OLYMPICS OR SOME-THING?


NYPD – 27TH PRECINCT

WHATEVER, IDIOT. DON'T YOU KNOW THAT'S JUST BEGINNER'S LUCK? TRUST ME, GO BACK AGAIN AND YOU'LL GET SHOT DOWN. I GUARANTEE IT. SORRY TO KNOCK YOU OFF YOUR HIGH HORSE THERE, DUMB ASS.

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, DRAKE. IT'S ALWAYS THE SECOND TIME THAT'S TOUGH. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D THINK YOURSELF A GENIUS AFTER ONE GO.
PEOPLE PRACTICE YEARS TO BE GOOD. LIKE YOU CAN JUST GO BACK AND SHINE AGAIN.

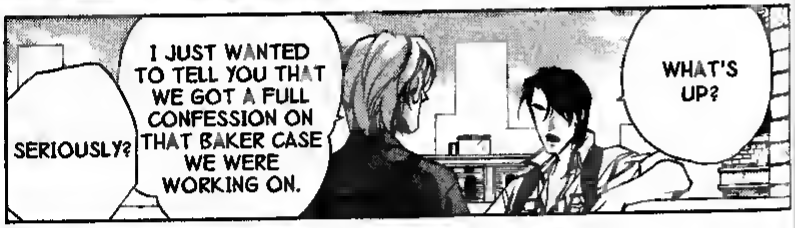
I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU.


I hope it wasn't just a pity fuck. Because last time I checked, cops aren't supposed to cry. *sniff*
IT'S TOTALLY AFTER THE FACT BUT HE STILL HASN'T TOLD ME ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

OH, THERE YOU ARE.

SURE, THERE WERE A COUPLE DAYS I THOUGHT MAYBE WE'D GO ALL THE WAY AGAIN BUT..
...AND THEN, LIKE, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING IN-BETWEEN.
IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS SINCE THAT AMAZING NIGHT WE SPENT TOGETHER..
One.
two...
three...

..JEEZ, HE'S HARDER TO GET INTO THAN AN AVRIL LAVIGNE CONCERT. NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT WAS A HECK OF A LOT EASIER TO RANDOMLY THROW HIM DOWN PRE-CONSUMMATION.
Curses.


I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT WE GOT A FULL CONFESSION ON THAT BAKER CASE WE WERE WORKING ON.
WHAT'S UP?
SERIOUSLY?

Glance
I WAS PLANNING TO ASK YOU EVEN BEFORE I HEARD ABOUT THE CONFESSION BUT..

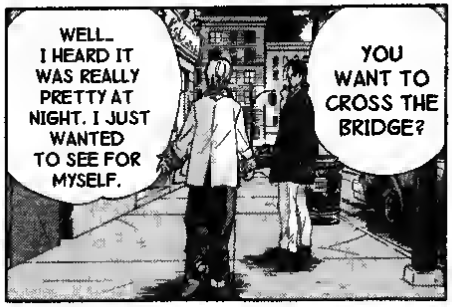
YEAH? OH LUCKY DAY.
YUP. THEY'RE GETTING ALL THE NOTES TOGETHER FOR THE PRELIMS NOW, SO.. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET OUT EARLY TODAY.
tap

I WONDER HOW HE REALLY FEELS ABOUT ME. OR IF HE FUCKING FEELS ANTHING AT ALL.

HUH?!
..HEY.. MIND IF I KISS YOU?
URM...
N...
WHY NOT? SURE.
WELL, THEN, UMN, IN THAT CASE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO THIS VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT WITH ME?
TED TOLD ME ABOUT THIS GREAT PLACE DOWN-TOWN.
GEE! UM, NOT REALLY. I WAS JUST GONNA GRAB A QUICK BITE BEFORE HEADING HOME--THAT'S ABOUT IT.
..WELL, DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS TONIGHT, DEE?
IF YOU MEAN BIKKY AND CAROL, THEY WENT TO SUMMER CAMP WITH THEIR FRIENDS. THEY'VE BEEN GONE SINCE YESTERDAY.
House... apes?
WHAT ABOUT THE HOUSE APES?
I'VE BEEN THINKING A LOT. WELL, UH..
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, DEE? LATELY ALL YOU DO IS STARE INTO SPACE.
YUP YUP.
OH YEAH, I FORGOT THAT THEY WERE OFF.
Hmm Mmmm

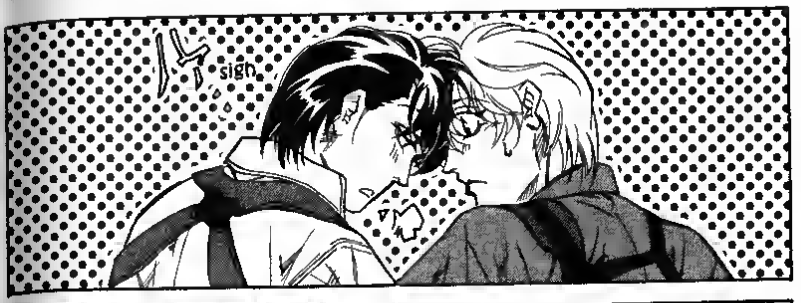
WOO HEE! I'M TOTALLY STUFFED.

YEAH, I HAD MY DOUBTS SINCE TED RECOMMENDED IT BUT, WOW, IT REALLY WAS AWESOME. HE DID GOOD.
THAT WAS REALLY GOOD.


WELL... I HEARD IT WAS REALLY PRETTY AT NIGHT. I JUST WANTED TO SEE FOR MYSELF.
YOU WANT TO CROSS THE BRIDGE?

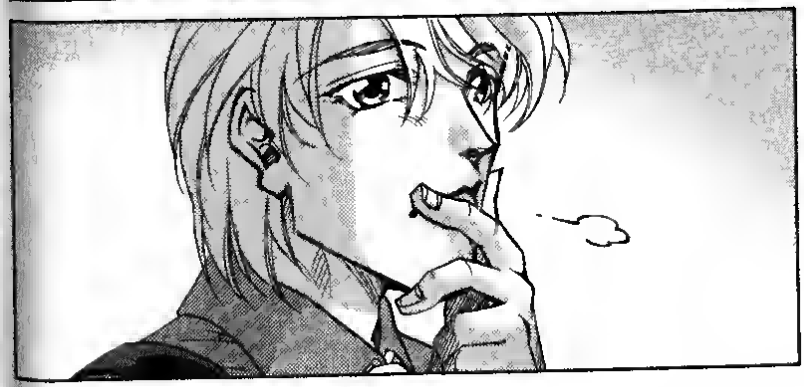
AH, HECK. WHY NOT?

HEY, DEE, YOU WANNA TAKE A WALK WITH ME? I WAS THINKING WE COULD HEAD OVER TO BROOKLYN. OUT BY THE RIVER CAFE OVER THERE?


sigh

WHELP...

HUH... OH... YEAH.
WE DON'T WANT TO PISS OFF THE BADGER.
I GUESS WE BETTER GET BACK TO WORK.



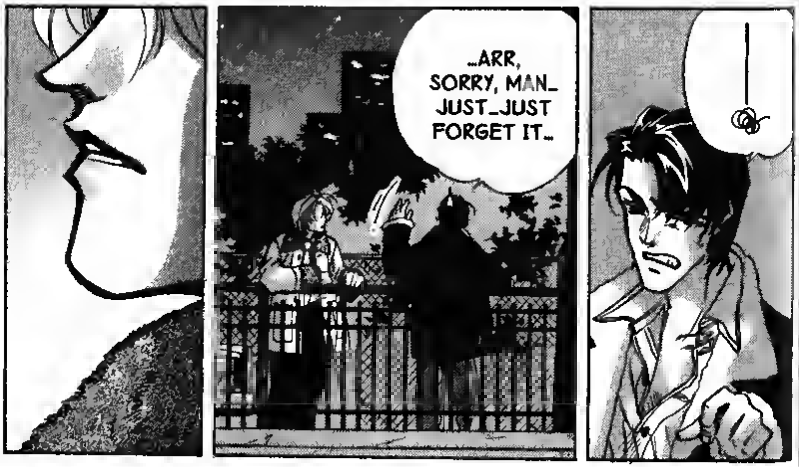
..IT WAS, LIKE, YDUR FIRST TIME AND STUFF, PLUS YOU HAD ALL THDSE THINGS DN YDUR MIND, SO I THDUGHT THAT, WELL, I THDUGHT THAT MAYBE IT WAS DNE DF THDSE SPDNTANEDUS, REGRETTABLE THINGS AND.
I.. I MEAN LIKE, WELL..
I MEAN.. I LDVE YDU.. I TDTALLY, SERIDUSLY, COMPLETELY LDVE YDU AND..
..I MEAN, REGRET-TABLE FDR YDU, NDT FDR ME. BECAUSE IT WASN'T JUST A WHIM FDR ME.

WDD!! CHECK IT DUT! YDU CAN SEE ALL DF MANHATTAN AND THE BRDDKLYN BRIDGE TDD.

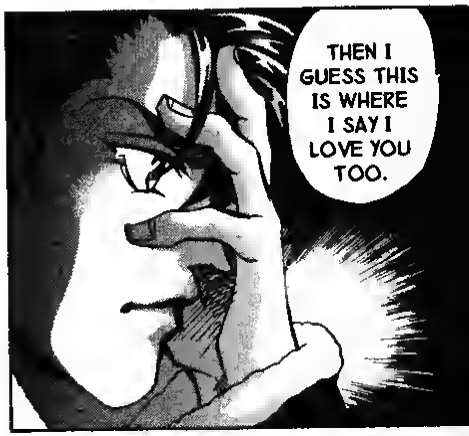
WELL, THIS IS OUT OF OUR JURISDICTION, PLUS WE'RE USUALLY WORKING THROUGH THE NIGHT SO.. IT'S HARD TO FIND THE TIME TO JUST SIGHTSEE. UNTIL TONIGHT, I NEVER KNEW HOW PRETTY IT WAS OUT HERE EITHER.
IT'S NICE, MAN. STRAIGHT OUT OF THE POSTCARDS THE TOURISTS BUY. I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE IN SO LONG.
BOTH NY RESIDENTS.

..GOD, I... I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK THAT MAYBE I TRIED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU IN YOUR MOMENT OF WEAKNESS AND, URM, OH SHIT..

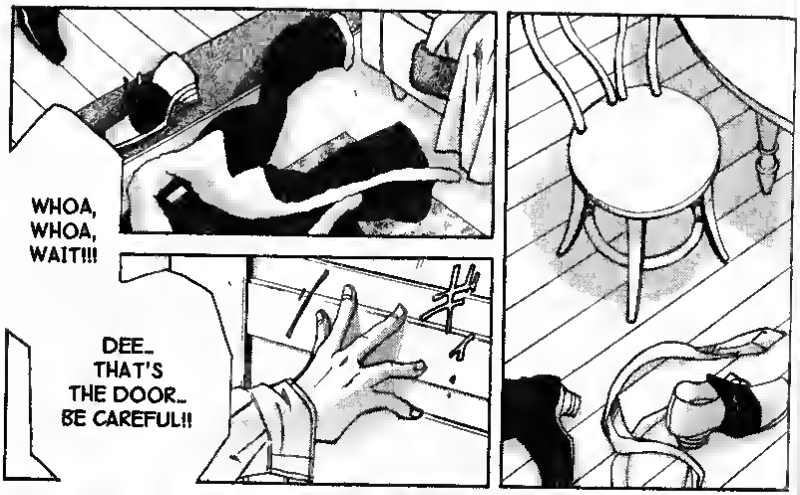
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S WHAT YOU REALLY WANTED?
WELL, THE OTHER NIGHT.
HEY, RYO..
WHAT'S THAT?
DO YOU MIND IF I ASK YOU A KIND OF, WELL, KIND OF AN ODD QUES-TION?


..ARR, SORRY, MAN.. JUST..JUST FORGET IT..

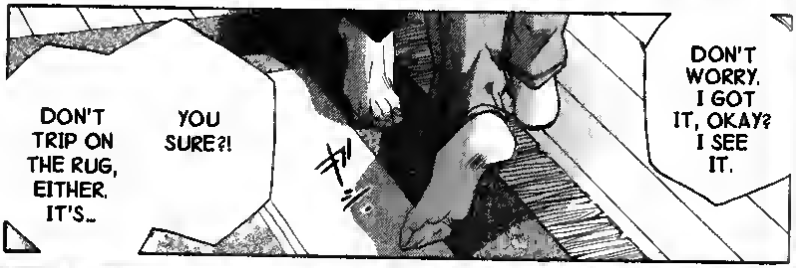
...I LOVE YOU...
...MORE THAN ANYTHING.


THEN I GUESS THIS IS WHERE I SAY I LOVE YOU TOO.

AND IT WASN'T JUST A SPONTANEOUS THING BECAUSE...


WHOA, WHOA, WAIT!!!
DEE.. THAT'S THE DOOR.. BE CAREFUL!!

MIND IF I KISS YOU?


DON'T TRIP ON THE RUG, EITHER. IT'S..
YOU SURE?!
DON'T WORRY. I GOT IT, OKAY? I SEE IT.

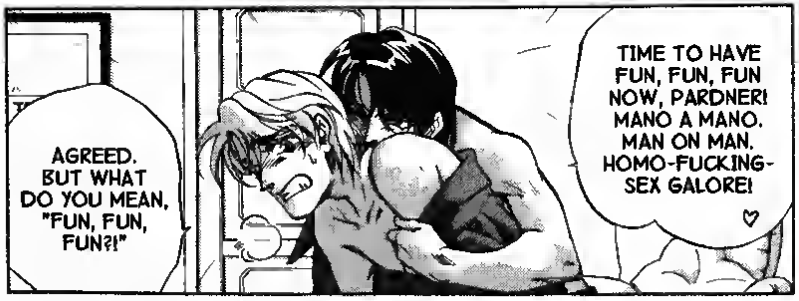
NAH, NOT AT ALL.

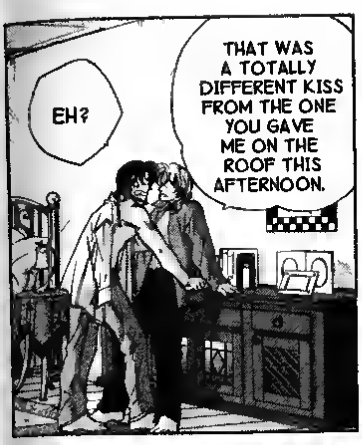
URM, YOU OKAY, BUDDY? BECAUSE YOU SURE DON'T LOOK IT.
I'm so happy!
YAY!! I GOT IT!! I GOT A ♡ SECOND CHANCE!!

AND SORRY, BUT YOU USED UP ALL YOUR TIME-OUTS IN THE FIRST HALF.
You don't have to be!!
W-WAIT!! HOLD UP, DEE!! I'M NOT READY YET!!

SILENCE, LOVE-SLAVE!! I SAID IT WAS TIME TO FORGET THE MISUNDER-STANDINGS!!
はは ha ha ha
HYA AHH H!!

...AH...


AGREED. BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "FUN, FUN, FUN?!"
TIME TO HAVE FUN, FUN, FUN NOW, PARDNER! MANO A MANO. MAN ON MAN. HOMO-FUCKING-SEX GALORE! ♡


EH?
THAT WAS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT KISS FROM THE ONE YOU GAVE ME ON THE ROOF THIS AFTERNOON.

WHAT?
Giggle

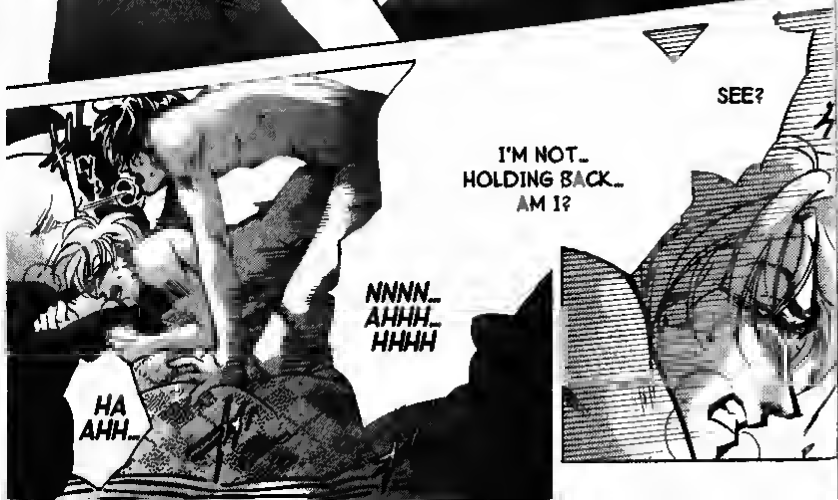
It was kind of like you... were just trying to forget me.
THAT ONE EARLIER JUST... DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO IT.

WHY DON'T YOU SAY WE STOP WITH THE CONSTANT MISUNDERSTAND-INGS? I THINK IT'S TIME TO SHOW YOU WHAT I'VE REALLY GOT!!
WAAHH!!

I WHAT?
WELL, THE ONLY REASON I WAS OUT OF IT WAS BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU--

SO READY OR NOT, HERE I COME. BECAUSE NOW I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL... BECAUSE YOU FINALLY TOLD ME...I'VE GOT NO MORE RESERVATIONS... AND NOTHING TO HOLD BACK. EVER.

I LOVE YOU AND I PROMISE YOU ONE THING:
I MAY BE DUMB, BUT I'LL NEVER LOSE YOU TO ANOTHER GUY.


HA AHH...
NNNN... AHHH... HHHH
I'M NOT... HOLDING BACK... AM I?
SEE?

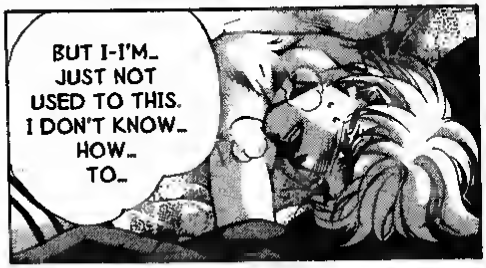
...NH...
DON'T BE, DOLT. THAT'S JUST HOW IT HAD TO BE.

R-RIGHT. UHH... S-SORRY.

I DON'T THINK EITHER OF US HAD IT IN US TO REALLY ENJOY OUR FIRST TIME TOGETHER. RIGHT?

SOMETIMES IT'S NECESSARY FOR YOU TO SORT YOUR FEELINGS OUT. BUT THIS TIME, IT'S DIFFERENT. YOUR FEELINGS ARE SORTED OUT. YOU'VE ACCEPTED WHO AND WHAT YOU ARE.

AH...
UR... AHHH...


BUT I-I'M... JUST NOT USED TO THIS. I DON'T KNOW... HOW... TO...

DON'T WORRY, DUDE. I DO.

Nya ha ha
SO, WHAT'LL IT BE? H_2O?
AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT?!
HEY, I WAS JUST BEING NICE, MAN. AND I MEAN, OFFER ALL YOU LIKE BUT I DOUBT YOU COULD EVEN STAND UP RIGHT NOW, MUCH LESS WALK
NO OFFENSE, BUT, DEE, THIS IS MY HOUSE. SO WHY ARE YOU OFFERING MY REFRESHMENTS TO ME? IF ANYTHING, YOU COULD HAVE ASKED ME AND I WOULD HAVE GOTTEN IT FOR YOU.
FOR NOW? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
NOTHING FOR NOW..
...RIGHT NOW, ALL I WANT IS YOU BESIDE ME.
WHAT I MEAN IS THAT..

...BLISS. ABSOLUTE BLISS.
I'M THIRSTY. YOU WANT ME TO GET YOU SOMETHING TOO?

ALTHOUGH..
...I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW...
Y'KNOW, THAT SOUNDS GOOD..BUT INSTEAD OF ME BEING BESIDE YOU, HOWZ-ABOUT ME BEING ON TOP?
ACK! GET OFF, YOU CAVE MAN!! YOU'RE WAY HEAVY!!
...AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU AND ONLY YOU... FOREVER...